

# 1.0 RECORD OF DECISION

This Record of Decision (ROD) and Approved Resource Management Plan (RMP) were prepared by the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) Rawlins Field Office (RFO) in Rawlins, Wyoming. The BLM RFO administrative area is located in south-central and southeastern Wyoming and includes approximately 11.2 million acres of land in Albany, Carbon, Laramie, and Sweetwater Counties. This ROD approves the attached Rawlins RMP, and both provide overall direction for management of all resources on BLM-administered land in the Rawlins RMP Planning Area (RMPPA) (Map 1-1).

## 1.1 DECISION

The decision is made to approve the attached RMP (hereafter referred to as the Approved RMP) for the RFO. The Approved RMP was prepared under the authority of the Federal Land Policy and Management Act (FLPMA) (43 United States Code [U.S.C.] §1701, et seq.) and other applicable laws (43 Code of Federal Regulations [CFR] Part 1600) and includes broad land use plan decisions that provide overall direction for management of resources and resource uses within the RMPPA.

An environmental impact statement (EIS) was prepared for the RMP in compliance with the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA). Following publication of the Rawlins Proposed RMP/Final EIS in January 2008, the BLM carried forward text from the Proposed RMP to incorporate in the Approved RMP and ROD. During preparation of the Approved RMP, changes were made to the Proposed RMP to correct errors, clarify decisions, and address issues raised during the protest period. These changes are detailed more fully below.

### 1.1.1 Remands, Clarifications, and Minor Editorial Changes

Three protest issues resulted in the remand of decisions in the Proposed RMP/Final EIS. The remanded decisions are presented below as well as reflected in the decisions found in the Approved RMP. In addition, a variety of issues raised during protest for the Proposed RMP/Final EIS resulted in clarifications to certain planning decisions presented in the Proposed RMP. The clarifications are presented below as well as reflected in the decisions found in the Approved RMP. Remands, clarifications and minor editorial changes are supported by, or compliant with, the resolution of protest issues.

#### 1.1.1.1 Remands

1-1



1-2



- In resolution of a protest concerning an updated inventory of visual resource values within the RMPPA, the visual resource management (VRM) class designation and decision portions of the Proposed RMP/Final EIS have been remanded (refer to BLM Land Use Planning Handbook, H-1601-1). The VRM designations and decisions will be reevaluated and subject to subsequent NEPA analysis. To comply with VRM policy (BLM VRM Manual 8400 and 8410), the RFO will undertake an effort to update the inventory of visual resources within the RMPPA. Using this updated inventory as a baseline, VRM class designations will be considered and analyzed in a future VRM-targeted EIS for the RMPPA. Through the subsequent NEPA process, the public will have an opportunity to comment during this environmental analysis process regarding Rawlins VRM. ~~Until such time, the Approved RMP will utilize the VRM class designations as established and analyzed in the No Action Alternative, Alternative 1 in the Proposed RMP/Final EIS.~~ Unless otherwise specified, all other portions of the Proposed RMP are upheld and approved by the State Director.

Amendment Change No. 1-1

## AMENDMENT CHANGE SHEET

**PLAN NAME:** Record of Decision and Approved Rawlins Resource Management Plan

**AREA:** Rawlins Field Office

### LOCATION OF CHANGE

Page No. 1-1      Paragraph No. 5      Column n/a      Line No. 10-12.

### CHANGE

(Describe exactly what is to be deleted, added, rewritten, etc.)

Delete: Until such time, the Approved RMP will utilize the VRM class designations as established and analyzed in the No Action Alternative, Alternative 1 in the Proposed RMP/Final EIS.

Insert: The RMP was amended by the Chokecherry and Sierra Madre Wind Energy Project and Approved Visual Resource Management Plan Amendment on Public Lands Administered by the Bureau of Land Management Rawlins Field Office, Carbon County, Wyoming, approved October 9, 2012 (Map 2-50). Document located at <https://go.usa.gov/xmytd>

### REASON

(Describe exact rationale for above change to include reference material, i.e., EA, EIS, IM)

In resolution of a protest concerning an updated inventory of visual resource values within the RMPPA, the visual resource management (VRM) class designation and decision portions of the Proposed RMP/Final EIS were remanded (refer to BLM Land Use Planning Handbook, H-1601 1) in 2008. The VRM designations and decisions needed to be reevaluated and subject to subsequent NEPA analysis. To comply with VRM policy (BLM VRM Manual 8400 and 8410), the RFO undertook an effort to update the inventory of visual resources within the RMPPA. Using this updated inventory as a baseline, VRM class designations were considered and analyzed in the VRM-targeted EIS for a portion of the RMPPA.

### SIGNATURE AS APPROPRIATE

Program Leader /s/Andrew Mowrey      Date November 13, 2019

Field Office      /s/Susan Foley      Date November 13, 2019  
Planning and Environmental Coordinator

Field Manager /s/Nancy R. Baker for      Date November 13, 2019

Amendment Change No. 1-2

## AMENDMENT CHANGE SHEET

**PLAN NAME:** Record of Decision and Approved Rawlins Resource Management Plan

**AREA:** Rawlins Field Office

### LOCATION OF CHANGE

Page No. 1-1      Paragraph No. 5      Column n/a      Line No. 10-12.

### CHANGE

(Describe exactly what is to be deleted, added, rewritten, etc.)

Delete:

Insert: The RMP was amended by the Resource Management Plan Amendment and Environmental Assessment for Visual Resource Management and the Final RMP Amendment for the Blowout Penstemon Area of Critical Environmental Concern, approved October 3, 2018 (Map 2-50). Document located at <https://go.usa.gov/xEcpW>

### REASON

(Describe exact rationale for above change to include reference material, i.e., EA, EIS, IM)

In resolution of a protest concerning an updated inventory of visual resource values within the RMPPA, the visual resource management (VRM) class designation and decision portions of the Proposed RMP/Final EIS were remanded (refer to BLM Land Use Planning Handbook, H-1601 1) in 2008. The VRM designations and decisions needed to be reevaluated and subject to subsequent NEPA analysis. To comply with VRM policy (BLM VRM Manual 8400 and 8410), the RFO undertook an effort to update the inventory of visual resources within the RMPPA. Using this updated inventory as a baseline, VRM class designations were considered and analyzed in the VRM-targeted EA for the remaining portion of the RMPPA.

### SIGNATURE AS APPROPRIATE

Program Leader /s/Andrew Mowrey      Date November 13, 2019

Field Office      /s/Susan Foley      Date November 13, 2019  
Planning and Environmental Coordinator

Field Manager /s/Nancy R. Baker for      Date November 13, 2019

- In resolution of a protest concerning special recreation management area (SRMA) designation decisions made between the Draft RMP/EIS and the Proposed RMP/Final EIS, the decision to designate Jelm Mountain, Pedro Mountains, Laramie Plains Lakes, and the Rawlins Fishing Area as SRMAs in the Approved RMP has been remanded (refer to BLM Land Use Planning Handbook, H-1601-1). These SRMA designations were not included in the Draft RMP/EIS and, therefore, did not allow for the opportunity for the public to provide comments (refer to the CEQ regulations on public comment periods). The lands encompassing these four SRMAs will be managed as analyzed in the Draft RMP/EIS and this change will be reflected in the Approved RMP.
- The BLM has reviewed its administrative record and found that comments submitted through scoping (during a comment period for gathering input on potential ACECs) included recommendations for designating ACECs to protect the following areas, habitats, or species: McCarty Canyon, areas surrounding North Platte Reservoirs, Flattop Mountain (including any habitat for Gibbens penstemon), Ferris Dunes (including the large dune field, grass-dominated wetland communities, and any habitat for the kangaroo rat), and Ferris Mountain (including any habitat for Cedar Rim thistle north of the area). These recommendations were mistakenly overlooked in documentation. Because the BLM did not review or consider the recommendations in accordance with BLM Manual 1613, the protest is granted and these recommended areas will be considered at the earliest opportunity as part of the next planning process conducted in the RFO.

### 1.1.1.2 Clarifications

- The following definition in the glossary has been modified to more accurately portray that project proposals would be considered and evaluated on a case-by-case basis and not routinely dismissed without appropriate analysis under the NEPA. It is fully appropriate to consider project proposals based on the opportunity to site projects with special stipulations or mitigation measures, and with full consideration of the environmental values in a project area.

**Avoidance Areas:** Areas to be avoided which may be available for location of ROWs and Section 302 permits, leases, and easements with special stipulations or mitigation measures. For such authorizations, the area's environmental sensitivity and other feasible alternatives will be strongly considered.

See additional text and support for this clarification in Section 1.4.2.2 below.

- The BLM incorrectly addressed mountain plover throughout the Proposed RMP/Final EIS as if it was on the BLM Wyoming State Director's Sensitive Species List (BLM 2002). For clarification, proactive and cooperative management for mountain plover is carried out consistent with BLM Manual 6840.22C (Agreements, Assessments, and Cooperative Strategies for Conservation) according to guidelines jointly developed by a federal interagency team (BLM, National Park Service [NPS], United States Forest Service [USFS], United States Fish and Wildlife Service [USFWS] and in subsequent coordination with Wyoming Game and Fish Department [WGFD] biologists). Corrections have been made in the Approved RMP and Final EIS to remedy this error. Regardless of implied status, the proposed special protection measures and potential mitigation strategies for mountain plover are correctly described in Appendix 16 (Mountain Plover Management Guidelines: Occupied Habitat Protection Measures) of the Proposed RMP/Final EIS and are adopted in full by this ROD, resulting in continued protective management for the species.
- The management action in Table 2-1 on page 2-100 of the Proposed RMP/Final EIS is clarified to read, "Water impoundments in the Upper Muddy Creek Watershed/Grizzly SD/MA that would result in storage of greater than 1 acre-foot per project would not be allowed." This clarification removes the term "water loss" in the original text of the management action because it is variable over time

and can be calculated multiple ways. The text on page 4-438 in the Proposed RMP/Final EIS is similarly changed to remove “water loss”.

- The Rawlins Proposed RMP/Final EIS incorrectly lists the Chain Lakes area as a wind energy avoidance area in Impacts Common to All Alternatives (page 4-248). Under Alternative 3, the Chain Lakes ACEC/WHMA is an *exclusion* area for wind energy development. The wind energy exclusion area is correctly shown in Table 2-5 (page 2-143) and in Section 4.13.7.4 (page 4-252) of the Proposed RMP/Final EIS. On page 2-144 of the Proposed RMP/Final EIS, the Chain Lakes area was omitted from the tabularized avoidance areas for Alternatives 1, 2, and 4 (Table 2-5). The Chain Lakes area has been added as an avoidance area in Table 2-5 in the Approved RMP. To further clarify, a statement has been added to sections 4.13.7.2, 4.13.7.3, and 4.13.7.5 (from the Proposed RMP/Final EIS) that correctly identifies the area as a wind energy avoidance area.
- Maps 2-58, Adobe Town Dispersed Use Area Recreation Opportunity Spectrum and Map 2-59, Adobe Town Dispersed Use Area Recreation Opportunity Spectrum—Desired Future Condition are modified to reflect removal of a single boundary road that does not meet the “country road” description under the recreation opportunity spectrum analysis process (BLM Land Use Planning Handbook, H-1601-1, Appendix C). This clarification results in an expansion of the middle country designation and a contraction of front country designation adjacent to the Adobe Town Wilderness Study Area (WSA).
- The text on methane seeps in the Proposed RMP/Final EIS (page 4-412) is clarified to reflect the possibility of increased or decreased methane seepage, as well as unknown potential impacts to vegetation, water quality and other resources. The text on page 4-412 should be clarified to read, “The BLM does not expect that CBNG development would lead to increased seepage of methane from natural methane seeps. However, increased methane venting could occur and may locally kill vegetation, affect water quality, and be an increased hazard if the gases are vented near an ignition source.”
- The BLM’s analysis of wilderness characteristics is consistent with the agency’s policy and guidance. BLM IM-2003-275 states that considering wilderness characteristics in the land use planning process may result in several outcomes, including, but not limited to: 1) emphasizing other multiple uses as a priority over protecting wilderness characteristics; 2) emphasizing other multiple uses while applying management restrictions (e.g., conditions of use, mitigation measures) to reduce impacts to some or all of the wilderness characteristics. As a result, the BLM is not required to manage for wilderness characteristics just because they may exist. The BLM chose not to carry the analysis of wilderness characteristics into the Proposed RMP/Final EIS because valid existing lease rights prohibit implementation of management actions to protect the wilderness characteristics identified. The BLM Approved RMP was selected from an alternative in the Proposed RMP/Final EIS that did not include management for wilderness characteristics.

Text on page 2-11 of the Proposed RMP/Final EIS is clarified to read as follows: “Because the BLM found the lands to be unmanageable for wilderness character because of preexisting oil and gas leases, the BLM elected to manage lands with wilderness character for multiple use and not for protection of wilderness character. Accordingly, measures to provide protection for any wilderness characteristics of lands (outside of previously established WSAs) will not be considered in the alternatives in this RMP. This is consistent with BLM policy as presented in BLM IM 2003-275.”

### 1.1.1.3 Minor Editorial Changes

- Map 2-33, Utility/Transportation Systems and Wind Energy Exclusion and Avoidance Areas has been split into two separate maps in the Approved Plan: Map 2-33a, Wind Energy Exclusion and

Avoidance Areas and Map 2-33b, Linear Utility/Transportation Systems/Communication Site Exclusion and Avoidance Areas.

- The Economic Profiles were inadvertently omitted from Appendix 35 of the Proposed RMP/Final EIS. The Economic Profiles have now been updated and posted to the Rawlins RMP website at <http://www.blm.gov/rmp/wy/rawlins/documents.html>.
- The definition of “other activities” has been removed from the glossary. The use of the term “other activities” is infrequent in the Approved RMP and the definition in the glossary does not apply to, nor support, the term as used in the Approved RMP. This clarification removes an unnecessary definition from the glossary.
- The BLM has included the National Trails System Act in Appendix 39 of the Proposed RMP/Final EIS.
- Recreational site development will not be authorized in occupied/designated Colorado butterfly plant habitat. This clarification removes the relatively ambiguous use of the term “known habitat” as it appears in Table 2-1 on page 2-96 of the Proposed RMP/Final EIS.
- The BLM incorrectly omitted citations to scientific literature concerning sage-grouse that was consulted in preparation of the RMP. The omissions occurred on pages 3-156, 3-157, 3-158, 4-480 and 4-481 of the Proposed RMP/Final EIS. Citations for the National Sage-grouse Habitat Conservation Strategy (U.S. Department of the Interior [USDI], BLM 2004b), the Wyoming Greater Sage Grouse Conservation Plan (WGFD 2003), and Wyoming BLM Instruction Memorandum 2004-057 (USDI, BLM 2004c) have been added to the Literature Cited section of the ROD/Approved RMP.
- The ROD/Approved RMP includes larger scale maps that show only the public land included in each of the special designations and management areas (SD/MAs). This clarification applies to all SD/MAs but is especially applicable to the SD/MAs within the checkerboard land pattern. The new set of maps in the Approved RMP adds to the clarification that decisions in the Approved RMP are only applicable to BLM-administered public land surfaces (and federal mineral estate).
- In Table 1—Unique Comments, which is posted on the Rawlins RMP website (<http://www.blm.gov/rmp/wy/rawlins/documents.html>) and includes all the substantive Draft EIS comments and responses, a total of 5 comments did not include responses. These responses were mistakenly omitted from the table. However, the issues raised in these 5 comments were included in other comments for which responses were given in both the table and Appendix 38, Response to Public Comment, in the Proposed RMP/Final EIS. These 5 comments and appropriate responses, which were used for other similar comments, are included below.

**Comment ID #3438 (Minerals Category):** In any number of past oil and gas lease sales, the RFO has required the following stipulation: CSU (1) Surface occupancy or use within the overlapping big game crucial winter ranges will be restricted or prohibited unless the operator and surface managing agency arrive at an acceptable plan for mitigation of anticipated impacts. This may include development, operations and maintenance of facilities; (2) as mapped on the Rawlins Field Office GIS database; (3) protecting habitat quality and preventing loss of overlapping big game crucial winter ranges. Will this stipulation be maintained in the new RMP? Why or why not? If this stipulation will not be used in the future, when was this determination made, what is the basis for it, where is the determination documented, and what opportunities were there for public involvement in this process? Was the determination subject to NEPA? At a minimum, BLM must provide a careful, justified explanation of why it is abandoning this long-standing protection, if it is abandoning it.

**Response:** By focusing on overlapping crucial winter ranges, vital habitats for any of the big game species could be deemphasized. Identifying mitigations that act to control development within all crucial winter ranges will provide equal consideration, regardless of the number of big game species using a wintering area.

**Comment ID #2914 (Water Quality, Watershed, and Soils Category):** The DEIS talks about baseline water quality in the RMPPA, but fails to provide any. DEIS at 3-117. Intelligent management of surface water quality begins with an examination of existing water quality. Management actions should have as their goals to prevent degradation of current water quality, and to improve water quality in areas where it is impaired. Activities that would potentially impair surface water quality (e.g., surface discharge of coalbed methane wastewater) must be regulated to prevent such impairment. However, it is impossible for BLM to analyze potential impacts to water quality without disclosing current water quality conditions. The failure to provide this baseline data is an egregious one, and calls into doubt the analysis of impacts to surface water quality.

**Comment ID #2915 (Water Quality, Watershed, and Soils Category):** The DEIS also fails to provide baseline data on the quality of groundwater from various aquifers. This information is critically important to a 'hard look' analysis because salts and heavy metals found in the groundwater in coal seams have the potential to poison aquatic life and riparian vegetation downstream when coalbed methane wastewater is discharged untreated into waterways or infiltration reservoirs. The composition of groundwater from coal seams likely to be exploited by reasonably foreseeable coalbed methane development (e.g., Atlantic Rim, Seminole Road, Hanna Draw) must be disclosed as key baseline data in the Rawlins RMP EIS, and the BLM has thus far failed to do so. This information has been displayed by BLM in the past based on water quality measured for water wells tapping the same formation as CBM development would exploit. By now, exploratory CBM wells in the Atlantic Rim, Hanna Draw, and Seminole Road areas have been drilled, and substantial dewatering has occurred. Direct water quality data from these exploratory wells should be available to the BLM both through direct testing of produced waters from these wells and through the NPDES permit system, administered by the Wyoming Department of Environmental Quality. It is an inexcusable omission for the BLM to have failed to present these key data, without which a hard look at the impacts of surface discharge of CBM wastewater on receiving surface water bodies and near-surface aquifers is impossible.

**Comment ID #3529 (Water Quality, Watershed, and Soils Category):** 4-202 It is stated that activities under the RMP "at some point and in some location [sic] degrade water quality beyond the designated use [sic] of receiving water bodies." What does this mean? BLM should be able to make some analysis of the level of impacts that will occur, where it will occur, and so on. It should not have to resort to platitudes.

**Response (applies to comment ID #2914, #2915, and #3529):** Baseline water quality data was added to the Proposed RMP/Final EIS in section 3.17. There is not enough baseline data to quantify impacts completely in the Proposed RMP/Final EIS. The BLM is collecting baseline data where the BLM can, and NEPA requires the BLM to disclose potential impacts using best available information, which has been done. The BLM would like to work more closely with all involved parties to establish better monitoring on critical waterbodies. All projects are evaluated for impacts on the human environment based on project-specific details using the NEPA process at the activity planning level.

**Comment ID #2936 (Water Quality, Watershed, and Soils Category):** The DEIS fails to take a hard look at impacts to groundwater in its cumulative impacts analysis, BLM notes that there will be an irretrievable loss of groundwater resources associated with dewatering coal seams

during CBM development. DEIS at 4-263. The agency asserts that these groundwaters are “nontributary to surface waters, but can be connected to surface waters through springs along faults or where they outcrop.” Id. Clearly, the agency does not possess sufficient knowledge or information to determine whether these groundwaters ultimately contribute to the surface flows of streams and springs. Loss or reduction in spring flows in desert environments like those in the RMPPA has major impacts on sage grouse, big game, other wildlife, and riparian vegetation. Groundwater depletions in the Colorado River watershed automatically result in a finding of jeopardy to endangered fishes. BLM then proposes to defer analysis of groundwater flows to site-specific project planning. It is inappropriate to defer NEPA’s hard look to some unspecified later time, when these impacts need to be analyzed to permit the agency to make a reasoned choice among alternatives in the Rawlins RMP EIS process. This failure to take a hard look at impacts to groundwater constitutes a violation of NEPA.

**Response:** Impacts to groundwater are considered in Section 4.17 in the Proposed RMP/Final EIS. Potential groundwater impacts in Section 4.17 and the affected environment for groundwater in Section 3.17 have been revised in the Proposed RMP/Final EIS. Drilling activities are regulated by the Wyoming Oil and Gas Conservation Commission (WYOGCC), in addition to the BLM. State requirements include cementing off portions of the well bore that are in groundwater resources. Additional requirements by the BLM include conditions of approval (COA) that specify requirements, such as those relevant to construction of reserve pits and requiring spill hazard plans. Impacts from specific projects would be determined through the NEPA process at the activity planning and project decision level (Appendix 11) by using isotopic water samples, geology, groundwater modeling, and/or water quality sampling analysis.

The BLM recognizes that water used for drilling, construction activities, and dust abatement for conventional and CBNG developments may deplete surface waters in the Colorado and North Platte River Basins, given the specifics of the water source for this use. Text has been added to Section 4.17.1 in the Proposed RMP/Final EIS to further clarify this issue. However, the BLM does not believe depletions to surface waters necessarily occur with water use for oil and gas development. Water sources are numerous in the RFO and are often from groundwater sources that are not likely to cause depletion to surface water. Given the uncertainties regarding the specific sources of water used at each oil and gas lease or the potential for operations on that lease to lead to water depletions, the BLM considers water depletions at the activity planning level (Section 1.3). At this level, operators are required to disclose their water source for operations, according to Onshore Order 1, and an assessment is made as to potential for water depletions. This assessment can involve several analytical approaches, including isotopic analyses and groundwater modeling. Whenever a potential depletion is identified during this process, the BLM initiates consultation with the USFWS and the State of Wyoming, at which time the BLM fully complies with existing intraservice biological opinions (BO), laws, and agreements.

- The following text has been added to more fully respond to a comment from the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) on the Draft RMP/EIS found at comment ID #2719 in Table 1—Unique Comments on the Rawlins RMP website (<http://www.blm.gov/rmp/wy/rawlins/documents.html>): “The protections mandated by law, regulation, and policy for cultural resources, supplemented by the management actions in the Proposed RMP/Final EIS, will adequately protect significant and/or sensitive cultural resources in the Rawlins RMPPA. Please see the management actions in Table 2-1 of the Proposed RMP/Final EIS (page 2-22) for management actions specific to protection of cultural resources, and Appendix 5 (page A5-11) of the Proposed RMP/Final EIS for laws and regulations regarding the manner in which federal agencies shall manage cultural resources. For a comprehensive description of the Rawlins cultural resource program, including BLM’s responsibilities on non-federal lands, please see the text in the Proposed RMP/Final EIS, Appendix 5, Cultural Resources Management. According to Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act (NHPA) and its



implementing regulations found at 36 CFR 800, BLM is required to assess the effects of a project and then apply mitigation, as appropriate. Within the implementing regulations of Section 106 of the NHPA found at 36 CFR 800.4(d)(2), historic properties may be affected by federal undertakings. As stated within the Environmental Consequences section of the Proposed RMP/Final EIS (page 4-12), a significant impact to cultural resources entails an adverse effect, as defined in 36 CFR 800.5.”

### **1.1.2 Reasonably Foreseeable Development**

The number of wells projected in the reasonably foreseeable development (RFD) scenario for oil and gas does not limit or cap the number of wells that can be drilled in the RMPPA, nor the amount of surface disturbance that will be allowed during the period covered by the Proposed RMP/Final EIS. This clarification reaffirms that the RFD (for any resource as presented in Appendix 33, Reasonably Foreseeable Developments and Reasonably Foreseeable Actions) is intended for analysis purposes only. Individual implementation level project proposals will be subject to site-specific NEPA analysis to ensure conformance with the Approved RMP.

### **1.1.3 Global Climate Change**

The BLM acknowledges the recent developments in information regarding climate change. In particular, the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) has recently completed a comprehensive assessment of the current state of knowledge on climate change, its potential impacts, and options for adaptation and mitigation. This information was neither available during early stages of the Rawlins land use planning effort, nor prior to the printing of the Proposed RMP/Final EIS.

The assessment of climate-changing pollutant emissions and climate change is in its formative phase; therefore, it is not yet possible to know with confidence the net impact to climate. However, the IPCC recently concluded that “warming of the climate system is unequivocal” and “most of the observed increase in globally average temperatures since the mid-20th century is very likely due to the observed increase in anthropogenic [man-made] greenhouse gas concentrations” (IPCC 2007).

The lack of scientific tools designed to predict climate change on regional or local scales limits the ability to quantify potential future impacts. Currently BLM does not have an established mechanism to accurately predict the effect of resource management-level decisions from this planning effort on global climate change. However, potential impacts to air quality due to climate change are likely to be varied. In the future, as tools for predicting climate changes in a management area improve and/or changes in climate affect resources and necessitate changes in how resources are managed, BLM may be able to re-evaluate decisions made as part of this planning process and adjust management accordingly.

### **1.1.4 Continuity of Previous Decisions**

The decisions included in this ROD and Approved RMP supersede the Great Divide RMP (GDRMP) and subsequent amendments.

## **1.2 OVERVIEW OF ALTERNATIVES PRESENTED IN THE PROPOSED RMP/FINAL EIS**

### **1.2.1 Alternatives Considered but Eliminated from Detailed Analysis**

The following alternatives and management options were considered as possible ways of resolving resource management issues and conflicts but were eliminated from detailed analysis because they were unreasonable or not practical for technical, legal, or policy reasons. The FLPMA requires the BLM to manage public lands and resources according to the principles of multiple use and sustained yield, including recognizing the nation's needs for domestic sources of minerals, food, timber, and fiber. Moreover, the BLM is required by law to recognize existing valid rights on public lands and manage public lands according to existing laws, including, but not limited to, the General Mining Law of 1872 and the Mining and Minerals Policy Act of 1970. Specific alternatives considered but not carried forward for detailed analysis are as follows:

- Establishment of herd management areas in herd areas not supporting wild horses
- Elimination of all wild horses from the Rawlins RMPPA
- Reintroduction of a wild bison population
- Elimination of livestock grazing
- Implementation of the Western Heritage Alternative
- Limiting oil and gas exploration and development activity to levels analyzed in the existing GDRMP
- Expansion of wilderness study areas
- Consideration of additional areas as areas of critical environmental concern (ACEC).

### **1.2.2 Alternatives Considered in Detail**

The Proposed RMP/Final EIS, Section 2.5 further describes the four alternatives (1 through 4) considered in detail. The alternatives were developed to offer a range of management options. Each alternative was intended to be consistent with law, regulation, and policy while providing varying levels of compatible resource uses and development opportunities. General overviews of each alternative from the Proposed RMP/Final EIS are provided below.

#### **1.2.2.1 Alternative 1 (No Action Alternative)**

Resources on lands administered by the BLM within the RMPPA are currently managed under the existing plan (USDI, BLM 1990a), as amended. Management under Alternative 1 continues that management plan and balances the use and development of resources.

#### **1.2.2.2 Alternative 2**

Alternative 2 emphasizes resource uses (e.g., energy and mineral development and other commodity uses). Relative to all alternatives, Alternative 2 proposes the least restrictive management actions for energy and commodity development and the least protective management actions for physical, biological, and heritage resources while maintaining protections required by laws and regulations.

#### **1.2.2.3 Alternative 3**

Alternative 3 emphasizes conservation of physical, biological, and heritage resources with constraints on resource uses. Relative to all alternatives, Alternative 3 conserves the most land area for physical, biological, and heritage resources. The Alternative emphasizes the improvement and protection of habitat

for wildlife and sensitive plant and animal species, improvement of riparian areas, and implementation of management actions that improve water quality and enhance protection of historic and cultural sites.

Development and use of resources within the RMPPA would occur with intensive management of surface disturbing and disruptive activities.

#### **1.2.2.4 Alternative 4 (Agency Proposed Plan)**

Alternative 4 increases conservation of physical, biological, and heritage resources compared to current management, including restrictions against habitat fragmentation and designation of five new SD/MAs. Alternative 4 also emphasizes moderate constraints on leasing for oil and gas and other (leasable) solid minerals.

### **1.2.3 Environmentally Preferable Alternative**

In accordance with the Council on Environmental Quality (CEQ) regulations 40 CFR 1505.2(b), BLM considers Alternative 3 as the most environmentally preferable alternative. Alternative 3 conserves the most land area for physical, biological, and heritage resources, and as such, would result in the least amount of impact on the biological and physical environment within the RMPPA.

## **1.3 MANAGEMENT CONSIDERATIONS**

Based on input received during the planning process, there was both support and opposition to certain components of the Proposed RMP. No formal comments were received from federal or Tribal governments indicating the Proposed Plan was inconsistent with other federal or tribal plans or policies.

BLM considered all comments and protests received on the Proposed RMP/Final EIS and input from the Governor's consistency review (see Section 1.4 below). This ROD serves as the final decision for the land use plan decisions for the Approved RMP, and the Approved RMP becomes effective on the date this ROD is signed.

The BLM is tasked with the job of multiple-use management as mandated under the FLPMA and other laws and regulations governing management of public land. The Approved RMP provides a balance between those reasonable measures necessary to protect existing resource values and continued public need to make beneficial use of the RMPPA. Therefore, implementation of the Approved RMP is the alternative best able to comply with all applicable laws, regulations, policy, and agency direction.

### **1.3.1 Mitigation Measures**

All practicable means to avoid or minimize environmental harm are included in the Approved RMP and Appendices.

### **1.3.2 Plan Monitoring**

The BLM planning regulations (43 CFR Part 1610.4-9) call for the continual monitoring of RMPs with a formal evaluation done at periodic intervals. Implementation of the Approved RMP will be monitored over time and plan evaluations conducted periodically. Management actions arising from activity plan decisions will be evaluated to ensure consistency with RMP objectives. Monitoring and the evaluation process are described in more detail in Section 2.5 of the Approved RMP.

## **1.4 PUBLIC INVOLVEMENT, CONSULTATION, AND COORDINATION**

### **1.4.1 Public Involvement**

The BLM decisionmaking process is conducted in accordance with the requirements of the CEQ regulations implementing NEPA and with the USDI and BLM policies and procedures implementing NEPA. NEPA and the associated regulatory and policy framework require federal agencies involve the interested public in their decisionmaking. The public involvement process, consultation, and coordination conducted for the Approved RMP are described in more detail in Chapter 5 of the Proposed RMP/Final EIS.

In accordance with CEQ scoping guidance, the BLM provided avenues for public involvement as an integral part of revising the RMP and preparing the EIS. CEQ scoping guidance defines scoping as the “process by which lead agencies solicit input from the public and interested agencies on the nature and extent of issues and impacts to be addressed and the methods by which they will be evaluated” (CEQ 1981). The official 60-day scoping period ran from February 3, 2003, through April 7, 2003. Four scoping meetings were held, and comments from the public were collected during the scoping meetings and throughout the scoping period through a variety of methods—mail, fax, e-mail, and the project website.

In addition to scoping, four public meetings were held during the 90-day comment period for the Draft RMP/EIS. The BLM provided a variety of avenues through which the public could submit comments during the 90-day comment period including mail, e-mail, website, telephone, and in person. Four newsletters were distributed periodically throughout the planning process to keep the public informed of the Rawlins RMP/EIS process. In addition, the Rawlins RMP/EIS website (<http://www.blm.gov/rmp/wy/rawlins>) serves as a repository for documents related to the development of the RMP/EIS, including announcements, bulletins, and draft and final documents.

The BLM also provided the public with 60 days from the date of publication of a supplemental notice of availability (NOA) to review the Draft RMP/EIS and submit comments specific to ACECs. The NOA was published in the *Federal Register* on June 5, 2007. The 60-day public comment period ended on August 4, 2007.

Responses to all comments on the Draft RMP/EIS are available on the Rawlins RMP website at <http://www.blm.gov/rmp/wy/rawlins/documents.html>.

A 30-day protest period was provided on the land use plan decisions contained in the Proposed RMP/Final EIS in accordance with 43 CFR Part 1610.5-2. BLM received 79 protest letters that were subsequently resolved by the BLM Director, whose decision constitutes final agency action for the USDI. The main protest issues pertained to concern for the levels of impacts from oil and gas development, the protection of important wildlife, water, soil and air resources, consideration of wilderness characteristics, SD/MAs, and the adequacy of the NEPA analysis.

### **1.4.2 Consultation and Coordination**

#### **1.4.2.1 Cooperating Agency Status**

The RFO extended cooperating agency status to the State of Wyoming, Carbon County, Albany County, Sweetwater County, and various Conservation Districts for the Rawlins RMP planning effort. These agencies were invited to participate because they have jurisdiction by law or could offer special expertise.

A list of the cooperating agencies that have actively participated in cooperator meetings leading up to the development of the Proposed RMP/Final EIS is included below:

- Carbon County
- Albany County
- Sweetwater County
- Representative from the Wyoming Governor's Office
- State of Wyoming
- Wyoming State Lands and Investments
- Wyoming Department of Agriculture
- Wyoming Game and Fish Commission
- Wyoming Oil and Gas Conservation Commission
- Wyoming Department of Environmental Quality—Water/Air
- State Historic Preservation Office
- Saratoga-Encampment-Rawlins Conservation District
- Medicine Bow Conservation District
- Little Snake River Conservation District
- Sweetwater County Conservation District
- U.S. Environmental Protection Agency.

The cooperating agencies were formally invited to participate in the development of the alternatives and to provide existing data and other information relative to their agency's responsibilities, goals, and mandates. The RFO conducted meetings with cooperating agencies throughout development of the RMP/EIS.

#### **1.4.2.2 Governor's Consistency Review**

Coordination with other agencies and consistency with other federal, state, and local government plans was accomplished through frequent communications and cooperative efforts between BLM and federal, state, and local agencies. The Wyoming Governor is allowed 60 days to review the Rawlins Proposed Plan/Final EIS to verify consistency with ongoing state plans. The BLM received a letter from the Wyoming Governor's Office on March 4, 2008. The Governor's letter included local cooperating agency letters as attachments. The Governor's letter expressed concerns related to (1) continued cooperating agency participation in implementation of the Rawlins RMP, particularly with respect to implementation of the categorical exclusion language contained in Section 390(b)(3) of the Energy Policy Act of 2005; (2) rights-of-ways for power transmission lines, energy infrastructure, corridors and facilities; (3) implementation level socioeconomic analysis input; (4) Wyoming EQC "very rare or uncommon" designation; and (5) inconsistencies with local plans and policies. Although no inconsistencies with state plans were identified, the Governor's issues are addressed below. Resolution of these issues resulted in minor editorial changes to the Approved RMP.

1. Section 2.5.2 in the Approved RMP supports the continued coordination and cooperation with state and local agencies in a process similar to the process used by BLM and its cooperating agencies to develop the Rawlins RMP. The recommendation to establish an Activity Plan Working Group (APWG) commits BLM to meet with potential cooperating agencies prior to scoping for major activity plans or RMP amendments to establish the level and extent of the involvement of cooperating agencies. The issuance of this ROD and Approved RMP includes a commitment to hold an annual meeting between the BLM and the cooperating agencies involved in the RMP revision to update agencies on the implementation of the RMP, foreseeable activities for the upcoming year, and opportunities for continued collaboration with the RMP cooperators.

The Governor has expressed the specific need to discuss and annually plan for the implementation of Energy Policy Act of 2005 categorical exclusions.

2. The Governor's greatest concern and highest priority is to ensure that the Approved RMP does not functionally preclude the location of new electric transmission lines, major petroleum pipelines, major gas pipelines or related infrastructure within the RMPPA. Through a coordinated review of the management decisions, key glossary definitions and maps presented in the Proposed RMP/Final EIS, and the BLM's protest resolution process dealing with similar issues, the following clarifications have been made to the Approved Plan.
  - a. The following definition in the glossary has been modified to more accurately portray that project proposals would be considered and evaluated on a case-by-case basis and not routinely dismissed without appropriate analysis under the NEPA. It is fully appropriate to consider project proposals based on the opportunity to site projects with special stipulations or mitigation measures, and with full consideration of the environmental values in a project area.

**Avoidance Areas:** Areas to be avoided which may be available for location of ROWs and Section 302 permits, leases, and easements with special stipulations or mitigation measures. For such authorizations, the area's environmental sensitivity and other feasible alternatives will be strongly considered.

- b. Map 2-33, Utility/Transportation Systems and Wind Energy Exclusion and Avoidance Areas has been split into two separate maps: Map 2-33a, Wind Energy Exclusion and Avoidance Areas and Map 2-33b, Linear Utility/Transportation Systems/Communication Site Exclusion and Avoidance Areas. Water features and greater sage-grouse leks were removed from the two maps because those sensitive areas are adequately protected by management decisions in other sections of the Approved RMP. Map 2-33a and Map 2-33b in the Approved RMP have been modified to show only public land ownership to eliminate any confusion over BLM jurisdiction on non-federal lands. Similarly, all maps in the Approved RMP that convey land allocations have been modified to show only public land ownership to eliminate any confusion over the appearance of BLM jurisdiction on non-federal lands that the maps may have conveyed.
3. Section 2.5.2 in the Approved RMP addresses the concern raised by the Governor of Wyoming that implementation level activity plan or project level analysis will provide an opportunity for the BLM, State of Wyoming, and other local governments and communities to collaborate in disclosing the socioeconomic impacts associated with site-specific actions. This collaborative effort acknowledges that state and local governments may collect or develop more refined social and economic data and that local plans may be developed by impacted counties, municipalities, or communities that attempt to address social and economic matters affecting them.
4. The Approved RMP recognizes the State of Wyoming's designation of the Adobe Town area as a "very rare or uncommon" area. The designation of the Adobe Town area by the Wyoming EQC as "very rare or uncommon" applies State of Wyoming protection only as related to non-coal mining operations. Other extractive uses are permitted (see EQC docket 07-1101 at 36 and 45).

BLM's proposed management of the Adobe Town area, including the Adobe Town WSA and Adobe Town Dispersed Recreation Use Area, meets or exceeds the management protections of the State of Wyoming "very rare or uncommon" designation. Specific management actions

applicable to the Adobe Town “very rare or uncommon” designation in the Approved RMP include—

- a. All WSAs (Adobe Town, Prospect Mountain, Bennett Mountain, Encampment River Canyon, and Ferris Mountain) (Map 2-6; Table 2-7) will be managed according to the Interim Management Policy for Lands Under Wilderness Review until Congress either designates each WSA as wilderness or releases it from consideration and the land reverts to multiple-use management. Management direction for WSAs, should they be released from wilderness consideration by Congress, will be evaluated through the planning process which may result in a future RMP amendment.
  - b. The Adobe Town WSA is closed to OHV use (32,650 acres) (Map 2-6a).
  - c. The Adobe Town Dispersed Recreation Use Area (238,970 acres) (Map 2-17) will be a priority for reclamation after oil and gas development ceases.
  - d. The Adobe Town Dispersed Recreation Use Area will be managed for primitive, middle, and front country recreation desired future use (Map 2-59) in addition to other multiple uses. The area will be managed for dispersed recreation uses that do not require recreational developments or facilities. Future emphasis will be placed on maintaining an undeveloped recreation setting. The area will be managed to meet the described future conditions through specific recreation management, marketing, monitoring and recreation administrative actions as described in Appendix 37.
5. Specific planning inconsistencies were not identified in the attached letters, and the BLM could not identify specific planning inconsistencies. The issues and concerns of the agency letters restated individual agency positions that had been presented and fully vetted in various cooperator meetings. All agency positions presented were from agencies that participated in the Rawlins RMP revision process.

### **1.4.2.3 Section 7 Consultation**

The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) was consulted for Endangered Species Act Section 7 consultation, and the USFWS provided updated threatened and endangered species lists throughout the process. The USFWS participated in the development and review of the biological assessment (BA), which was completed in August 2006, and the biological opinion (BO), which was completed in January 2007.

### **1.4.2.4 Native American Consultation**

Protective measures for culturally sensitive Native American resources are established through consultation and coordination with the appropriate Native American tribes. Pursuant to the NEPA, NHPA, FLPMA, American Indian Religious Freedom Act (AIRFA), and Executive Order 13007, the BLM has engaged in consultation with Native American representatives for the RMP planning process. Native American consultation is an ongoing process that began before the current RMP revision and will continue after the new RMP is completed. Consultation letters were sent to the Shoshone, Arapaho, Ute, Cheyenne, Shoshone-Bannock, Crow, and Comanche tribes. In October 2005, letters inviting the tribes to become cooperating agencies were sent to the Shoshone, Arapaho, Ute, Northern Cheyenne, Oglala Sioux, Rosebud Sioux, Cheyenne River Sioux, Shoshone-Bannock, Crow, Hunkpapa-Santee Sioux, and Fort Peck Assiniboine and Sioux tribes. None of the tribes contacted requested to be considered cooperating agencies.

#### **1.4.2.5 Coordination with the Environmental Protection Agency**

Coordination with the EPA through various meetings has occurred throughout the Rawlins RMP process. The EPA also participated as a member of the Air Quality Protocol Group, which includes the BLM, USFS, the State of Wyoming, and the NPS as participants. The EPA provided a rating of EC2 on the Draft RMP/EIS. They expressed environmental concerns regarding potential impacts to ecosystem processes, air quality, water quality, and wildlife habitat. Requested changes were addressed in the Proposed RMP/Final EIS by disclosing water quality impacts on aquatic resources more clearly and quantitatively, specifically in grazing allotments needing preservation of riparian habitat and water quality.



## **2.0 APPROVED RESOURCE MANAGEMENT PLAN**

### **2.1 INTRODUCTION**

The Bureau of Land Management (BLM) Rawlins Field Office (RFO) administrative area is located in south-central and southeastern Wyoming and includes approximately 11.2 million acres of land in Albany, Carbon, Laramie, and Sweetwater Counties (Map 1-1). This Approved Resource Management Plan (RMP) and resulting Record of Decision (ROD) for the Rawlins RMP Planning Area (RMPPA) are intended to provide land use planning and management direction on a broad scale and to guide future actions. The regulations for making and modifying land use plan decisions, which comprise an RMP, are found in 43 Code of Federal Regulation (CFR) Part 1600. Land use plan decisions consist of (1) desired outcomes (goals and objectives) and (2) allowable uses and management actions.

#### **2.1.1 Purpose and Need for the Plan**

##### **2.1.1.1 Purpose**

Section 102 of Federal Land Policy and Management Act (FLPMA) sets forth the policy for periodically projecting the present and future use of public lands and their resources through the use of a planning process. FLPMA Sections 201 and 202 are the statutory authorities for the land use plans prepared by BLM. The purpose or goal of the land use plan is to ensure BLM-administered lands and resources are managed in accordance with the FLPMA and the principles of multiple use and sustained yield.

The purpose of revising the 1990 Great Divide Resource Management Plan (GDRMP) is to address the growing needs of the RMPPA. The Rawlins RMP will update information and revise management goals and objectives to reflect changed conditions and needs. The Rawlins RMP also will revise and replace the GDRMP and its associated National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) documents.

##### **2.1.1.2 Need**

In 2001, the BLM evaluated the GDRMP and concluded that much of the information used to prepare that plan had changed. Further, associated estimates of environmental consequences were either underestimated or overestimated for some resources.

The GDRMP does not provide BLM with current information or lacks enough information or analysis on which the decisionmakers could depend when evaluating a site-specific proposed use. For example, the GDRMP did not forecast the pace or intensity of oil and gas development that has occurred to meet market demands or domestic energy needs. The reasonably foreseeable development (RFD) and actions used to evaluate the effects of implementing the GDRMP did not anticipate the actual level of oil and gas development that has occurred. The conditions and known potential consequences used then are either approaching or have reached the assumptions and numbers used in estimating or predicting environmental consequences.

Therefore, to have a relevant and contemporary plan, the BLM needs to update the goals, objectives, and information in the plan, and make new estimates of environmental consequences of implementing activities to meet the goals and objectives. This plan is expected to have an effective life of about 20 years. It is assumed that it will be amended or maintained as appropriate, and as needed, to stay relevant and useful.

Based on the 2001 evaluation, the BLM identified the following topics or resource information and use allocations and direction as those needing reconsideration or revision or both:

- Although air quality decisions are adequate (i.e., comply with state law and standards and guidelines), there is a need for a region-wide analysis.
- Environmental justice (Executive Order 12898) has not been addressed.
- Existing Classification and Multiple Use Act classifications and withdrawals continue to provide protection to various resource values.
- Management direction for utility and transportation systems and communication sites may be inadequate.
- Management direction for land tenure adjustment may be inadequate.
- *Standards for Healthy Rangelands* (United States Department of the Interior [USDI], BLM 1997) must be incorporated into all programs.
- The vegetation resource is treated as a subset of livestock grazing.
- Invasive plant decisions are not included in the RMP.
- Fluid mineral development levels are approaching RFD scenarios established for analysis purposes in the existing RMP.
- Protection standards for paleontological resources are lacking.
- Recreation uses and demands are increasing.
- New areas of critical environmental concern (ACEC) designations may be needed, and existing ones may be outdated.
- Visual Resource Management (VRM) classifications are outdated. There are inconsistencies between the Rock Springs Field Office and the RFO. The designation for the Adobe Town Wilderness Study Area (WSA) is inconsistent between the Rock Springs Field Office and the RFO.
- Federal and state requirements for water quality warrant additional attention as the RMP is implemented and updated.
- Wild and Scenic River evaluations have not been conducted in the RMPPA.
- New information on cultural resources has been prepared.

## **2.1.2 Planning Area**

The RFO administers approximately 3.4 million acres of public land surface and mineral estate, 0.1 million acres of public land surface where the mineral estate is state and private, and 1.2 million acres of federal mineral estate where the surface is privately owned or state-owned (Maps 1-2 and 1-3). Map 1-4 shows the location and names of communities and other major geographic features within the RFO.

## 2.1.3 Planning Issues

### 2.1.3.1 Issues Addressed

In its planning process, BLM uses, from the NEPA regulations, the concept of issues and unresolved conflicts. Planning issues may include demands for resources, as well as concerns and conflicts, associated with balancing a mix of multiple uses or unresolved conflicts associated with past, present, and future management of public lands or resources. The BLM has identified the following as key issues.

#### Issue 1: Development of Energy Resources and Minerals-Related Issues

Special attention is needed to address energy resource development (i.e., oil and gas, coal, solar, and wind energy) and related transportation network conflicts with other land and resource uses and values. Principal considerations include disruptive activities and human presence in big game habitat (i.e., elk, deer, antelope, moose, and bighorn sheep), big game crucial habitat (crucial winter range and birthing areas), and other important wildlife species habitats (i.e., greater sage-grouse, plovers, raptors, and fish). Principal considerations also include the effects of surface disturbing and disruptive activities on cultural resources, recreation values, forage uses, air quality, sensitive vegetation types, and sensitive watersheds. Areas need to be identified where surface disturbing and disruptive activities (e.g., mineral exploration and development, ROW construction) are suitable or should be restricted or avoided.

#### Issue 2: Special Management Designations

FLPMA and the Wild Free-Roaming Horses and Burros Act provide for designation of special designations and management areas (SD/MA) or resource values. The BLM must review the actions for management areas established in the GDRMP and determine whether those actions are to be brought forward in the Rawlins RMP or, if needed, revised to meet current conditions.

The following established areas meet the criteria for protection and management of areas and resource values:

- WSAs: Encampment River Canyon, Prospect Mountain, Bennett Mountains, Adobe Town, and Ferris Mountains
- ACECs: Como Bluff, Sand Hills, Jep Canyon, and Shamrock Hills
- Wild Horse Herd Management Areas (HMA): Adobe Town, Stewart Creek, and Lost Creek.

BLM must also review the existing lands and resources and may consider and propose additional ACECs in the Rawlins RMP.

The GDRMP includes three National Natural Landmarks (NNL)—Big Hollow, Sand Creek, and Como Bluff—identified by the National Park Service (NPS) in the 1970s. In developing the Rawlins RMP, the BLM must decide between the following:

- Should BLM continue management goals and objectives and management actions as described?
- Should BLM identify new goals and objectives and management actions for the three NNLs?

BLM may also consider whether an existing NNL meets ACEC criteria and, if so, propose establishment of a new ACEC.

### **Issue 3: Public Access and Transportation Systems**

Resource accessibility relates to the idea that the value or usability of some resources is enhanced by improved public accessibility. To be used, resources must be accessible legally and physically. They must also be manageable (i.e., the ability to apply constraints or requirements on them). Some areas in the RMPPA, however, are isolated and difficult to access legally and physically and are difficult to manage. Land disposals and acquisitions (i.e., fee and easements) could provide improved access and manageability of public lands.

### **Issue 4: Wildland-Urban Interface**

New demands are being placed on public lands because of growth in and around some cities, towns, rural developments, and subdivisions in the RMPPA. Growth has changed the way communities relate to surrounding public lands and has changed the communities' expectations. The basic problem is providing for public land management along with increased demands for public land and resources. Principal considerations include providing for air and water quality, preventing the depletion of water resources, reducing accelerated erosion in critical watersheds, and preventing fragmentation of critical wildlife habitat. Considerations also include providing for development patterns and transportation and utility corridor planning, and dealing with demands for open space and recreational uses, land tenure adjustment, and wildland fire and fuels management.

### **Issue 5: Management of Special Status Species**

Attention is needed to address management of Special Status Species (threatened and endangered [T&E], and proposed, candidate, and sensitive plant and animal species) and the interrelationships of these species with other resource uses and activities. Principal considerations include management of species habitat to ensure continued use of the habitat by these species. Areas need to be identified where other resource activities may conflict with Special Status Species and their habitat requirements.

### **Issue 6: Water Quality**

Federal and state requirements for addressing water quality of water bodies located within the RMPPA will warrant additional attention as the RMP is implemented and updated. Land management decisions that the RFO makes during the planning effort, regarding contributing watersheds, can impact water bodies listed on the State of Wyoming's list of threatened or impaired water bodies, watersheds used for municipal water supplies, and watersheds that contribute to sources of water used for agricultural, industrial, and other purposes.

Increased interest in the production of natural gas in the RMPPA, particularly from coal formations, requires BLM to consider methods to dispose of the water produced during oil and gas exploration and development. Legal changes to the status of depletions in the Colorado and Platte drainages must be addressed in addition to rule changes for salt loading in the Colorado River Basin.

### **Issue 7: Vegetation Management**

Maintaining vegetation resource values, while allowing and managing consumptive uses, is a primary conflict for which BLM must determine a balance and mix of those values and uses. Resource values include watershed and riparian area protection, soil stabilization, maintenance and enhancement of wildlife habitat (particularly big game crucial winter range and habitat for candidate, sensitive, proposed, or T&E wildlife and vegetation species). Vegetative consumptive uses include livestock, wildlife, and wild horse grazing; forest management; off-road vehicle use; vegetation removal by mineral development; ROW construction; and other surface disturbing activities.

## **Issue 8: Recreation and Cultural Resources**

### ***Recreation Use and Management***

These issues are problems, opportunities, or conflicts with resource use and management that may be resolved through the planning process. Issues on recreation management are expressed in the form of questions that the RMP will address. Planning decisions are the answers or solutions to the questions posed below:

- What management actions, if any, should be employed to protect existing recreational settings on public lands?
- Should the visual character of natural landscapes surrounding historic and scenic trails be protected?
- Should off-highway vehicle (OHV) access to the public lands be limited to protect recreational settings and wildlife habitat?
- Is large-scale industrial development of public lands adversely affecting recreational settings and displacing recreational activities, experiences, and benefits?
- Are there high-value recreation areas in the RMPPA that merit intensive management similar to that for three established special recreation management areas (SRMA)? And if so, where? The SRMAs that focus on intensive recreation management are Continental Divide National Scenic Trail; North Platte River; and Shirley Mountain Caves.
- Are the needs of the off-road vehicle enthusiasts being met with present OHV designations, or are additional “open” or unlimited OHV areas needed?
- Are dispersed recreation activities, such as hunting, being adversely affected by competing resource management decisions and subsequent resource development?

### ***Cultural Resources Management***

Development along historic transportation routes such as the Overland Trail, the Cherokee Trail, and Westward Expansion-era roads would prove detrimental to the viewshed of these historic resources. In addition, development as well as recreational uses could affect Native American sacred sites. This would be an issue to address.

#### **2.1.3.2 Planning Criteria/Legislative Constraints**

Planning criteria define the scope of the planning effort based on applicable laws, BLM policy, and Director and State Director guidance. The criteria were used to guide the development and selection of the Approved RMP and ensure that the planning effort is focused on the issues and that decisions are made within the context of regulations and policies.

Planning criteria used in this RMP revision are—

- The revised RMP will recognize valid existing rights.
- Planning decisions will cover BLM-administered public lands, including split-estate lands where the subsurface minerals are severed from the surface right, and the BLM has legal jurisdiction over one or the other.

- The RMP planning effort will be collaborative and multi-jurisdictional in nature. The BLM strives to ensure that its management decisions are complementary to its planning jurisdictions and adjoining properties, within the boundaries described by law and regulation.
- The environmental analysis will consider a reasonable range of alternatives that focus on the relative values or resources and that respond to the issues. Management prescriptions will reflect the principles of multiple use and sustained yield.
- The BLM will consider current scientific information, research, new technologies, and the results of resource assessments, monitoring, and coordination to determine appropriate local and regional management strategies that will enhance or restore impaired ecosystems.
- The Wyoming Standards for Healthy Rangelands will apply to all activities and uses (USDI, BLM 1997).
- The RMP will address socioeconomics and environmental justice.
- The BLM will provide for public safety and welfare relative to fire, hazardous materials, and abandoned mine lands.
- VRM class designations will be analyzed and modified to reflect present conditions and future needs.
- BLM will consider current and potential future uses of the public lands, through the development of reasonably foreseeable future development and activity scenarios based on historical, existing, and projected levels of use.
- Planning decisions will include the preservation, conservation, and enhancement of cultural, historical, paleontological, and natural components of public land resources, while considering energy development and other surface disturbing activities.
- The BLM will coordinate with tribes to identify sites, areas, and objects important to their cultural and religious heritages.
- Planning decisions will comply with the Endangered Species Act (ESA) and BLM interagency agreements with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS).
- Areas potentially suitable for ACEC or other special designations will be identified and, where appropriate, brought forward for analysis in the EIS.
- Waterway segments are classified, and determinations of eligibility and suitability will be made in accordance with the Wild and Scenic Rivers Act. Appropriate management prescriptions for maintaining or enhancing the outstandingly remarkable values and classifications of waterway segments meeting suitability criteria will be part of the RMP process.
- OHV use management decisions in the revised RMP will be consistent with BLM's National OHV Strategy (USDI, BLM 2001) and with any interagency agreements in effect.
- Decisions in the revised RMP will comply, as appropriate, with all applicable laws, regulations, policy, and guidance.
- The coal screening/planning process has been conducted on areas containing federal coal within Carbon Basin consistent with regulations found at 43 CFR Subparts 3420 and 3460. Only the first two steps of the coal screening/planning process have been conducted on areas containing federal coal outside of Carbon Basin. Unless public submissions of coal resource information or surface resource issues indicate a need to update these determinations, no additional coal screening

determinations or coal planning decisions are anticipated for the Rawlins RMP until such time as a lease-by-application is received.

- BLM and the State of Wyoming entered into a consent decree on August 28, 2003, in United States District Court in Civil Action No. 03-CV-169-D. This consent decree directs that Wyoming BLM will use its best efforts to achieve and maintain previously established ~~abandoned mine lands~~ in all HMAs in Wyoming. Planning decisions on wild horse management will be consistent with the consent decree as long as it is in effect.

### 2.1.3.3 Planning Process Summary

The BLM uses a nine-step planning process when developing and revising RMPs as required by 43 CFR Part 1600 and planning program guidance in the BLM Handbook H-1601-1, Land Use Planning Handbook (BLM 2005). The planning process is designed to help the BLM identify the uses of BLM-administered lands desired by the public and to consider these uses to the extent they are consistent with the laws established by Congress and the policies of the executive branch of the federal government. The planning process is issue-driven. The BLM used the public scoping process to identify planning issues to direct (drive) the revision of the existing plan. The scoping process also was used to introduce the public to preliminary planning criteria, which set limits to the scope of the RMP revision.

Title II, Section 202, of FLPMA directs the BLM to coordinate planning efforts with Native American tribes, other federal departments, and agencies of the state and local governments as part of its land use planning process. The BLM is also directed to integrate NEPA requirements with other environmental review and consultation requirements to reduce paperwork and delays (40 CFR Part 1500.4-5). The BLM accomplished coordination with Native American tribes and other agencies and consistency with other plans through ongoing communications, meetings, and collaborative efforts with the Interdisciplinary Team, which includes BLM specialists and federal, state, and local agencies.

### 2.1.3.4 Related Plans

BLM planning policies require that the BLM review approved or adopted resources plans of other federal, state, local, and tribal governments and, where practicable, be consistent with those plans. Plans that are related to the management of land and resources that apply to this RMP revision include—


- *Medicine Bow-Routt National Forest, Revised Land and Resource Management Plan* (USFS 2003)
- *Albany County Land Use Plan* (1997)
- *Green River Resource Management Plan* (USDI, BLM 1996)
- *Carbon County Land Use Plan* (1998)
- *Lander Resource Management Plan* (USDI, BLM 1987)
- *Land and Natural Resource Management Plan for the Little Snake River Conservation District* (2004)
- *Platte River Resource Management Plan* (USDI, BLM 1985)
- *Sweetwater County Conservation District, Land and Resource Use Plan* (2005)
- *Little Snake Resource Management Plan* (USDI, BLM 1989)

**MAINTENANCE CHANGE SHEET**

<b>PLAN NAME: Rawlins RMP</b>		<b>AREA: Rawlins Field Office</b>	
<b>LOCATION OF CHANGE</b>			
Page No. 2-7	Paragraph No. 2 (first bullet)		Line No. 3
<b>CHANGE</b> (Describe exactly what is to be deleted, added, rewritten, etc.)  Delete: abandoned mine lands     Insert: appropriate management level			
<b>REASON</b> (Describe exact rationale for above change to include reference material, i.e., EA, EIS, IM)  The acronym AML was replaced during final edits with the wrong term.     Note: Signed version of forms are retained at the Rawlins Field Office			
<b>SIGNATURE AS APPROPRIATE</b>			
Program Leader	<u>/s/ Melanie Mirati</u>	<u>Date 11/22/2010</u>	
Field Office Planning and Environmental Coordinator	<u>/s/ John Spehar</u>	<u>Date 10/18/2010</u>	
Field Manager	<u>/s/ Dennis Carpenter</u>	<u>Date 10/22/2010</u>	



- *Saratoga-Encampment-Rawlins Conservation District, Long Range and Natural Resource Management Plan* (2007)
- *Sweetwater County Land Use Plan* (2002).

In addition, the Energy Policy Act of 2005 (Public Law 109-58), Section 368 refers to the designation of West-wide energy corridors. The Act is being implemented through current development of an interagency programmatic EIS. The final programmatic EIS will provide plan amendment decisions that will address numerous energy corridor-related issues, including the use of existing corridors (enhancements and upgrades), identification of new corridors, supply and demand considerations, and compatibility with other corridor and project planning efforts. It is likely that identification of corridors in the programmatic EIS will affect the RMPPA and that the approved programmatic EIS will subsequently amend the Rawlins RMP. 

The Energy Policy Act of 2005 (Public Law 109-58), Section 369 (oil shale and tar sands commercial leasing) is being implemented through the development of a BLM programmatic EIS. The identification of areas that are suitable for oil shale development will be included in the Oil and Tar Sands Leasing programmatic EIS. On its completion and ROD, the approved programmatic EIS will subsequently amend the Rawlins RMP.

### 2.1.4 Overall Vision

The Approved RMP increases conservation of physical, biological, and heritage resources compared to current management, including restrictions against habitat fragmentation and designation of new SD/MAs. The Approved RMP also emphasizes moderate constraints on leasing for oil and gas and other (leasable) solid minerals.

## 2.2 GOALS, OBJECTIVES, AND MANAGEMENT ACTIONS

Management decisions were based on the following resources:

- Air Quality
- Cultural Resources
- Fire and Fuels Management
- Forest Management
- Lands and Realty
- Livestock Grazing
- Minerals
- Off-Highway Vehicle Use
- Paleontology
- Recreation and Visitor Services
- Socioeconomics
- Special Designations and Management Areas
- Transportation and Access Management
- Vegetation
- Visual Resource Management
- Water Quality, Watershed and Soils Management
- Wild Horses
- Wildlife and Fisheries.

Amendment Change No. 8-1

## AMENDMENT CHANGE SHEET

**PLAN NAME:** Record of Decision and Approved Rawlins Resource Management Plan

**AREA:** Rawlins Field Office

### LOCATION OF CHANGE

Page No. 2-8      Paragraph No. 1      Column n/a      Line No. 8.

### CHANGE

(Describe exactly what is to be deleted, added, rewritten, etc.)

Delete:

Insert: The Approved Resource Management Plan Amendments/Record of Decision (ROD) for Designation of Energy Corridors on Bureau of Land Management-Administered Lands in the 11 Western States was approved January 14, 2009 (<http://corridoreis.anl.gov/documents/>)

### REASON

(Describe exact rationale for above change to include reference material, i.e., EA, EIS, IM)

The Approved Resource Management Plan Amendments/Record of Decision (ROD) for Designation of Energy Corridors on Bureau of Land Management-Administered Lands in the 11 Western States (approved January 14, 2009)(<http://corridoreis.anl.gov/documents/>), brought BLM into compliance with the requirement from the Energy Policy Act of 2005, Section 368.

### SIGNATURE AS APPROPRIATE

Program Leader /s/Heath L. Cline      Date December 2, 2019

Field Office      /s/Susan Foley      Date December 2, 2019  
Planning and Environmental Coordinator

Field Manager /s/Dennis J. Carpenter      Date December 2, 2019

State Director \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

Goals and objectives describe the desired outcomes for each resource topic, and management actions are anticipated to achieve these goals and objectives.

## **2.2.1 Management Decisions**

Section 2.3 includes the goals, objectives, and land use plan decisions/management actions made in the Approved RMP. The section is organized by the 18 resource topics listed above; however, management actions for resources and resource uses are often interconnected. Therefore, a comprehensive review of all 18 resource topics is required to ensure a full understanding of the Approved RMP.

## **2.3 APPROVED RESOURCE MANAGEMENT PLAN**

### **2.3.1 Air Quality**

#### **Management Goals**

1. Maintain or enhance air quality levels and, within the scope of BLM's authority, minimize emissions that may add to acid rain, cause violations of air quality standards, or degrade visibility.
2. Protect public health and safety and the well-being of sensitive natural resources.
3. Minimize the impact of management actions in the RMPPA on air quality by complying with all applicable air quality laws, rules, and regulations.
4. Implement management actions in the RMPPA to improve air quality as practicable.

#### **Management Objectives**

1. Maintain concentrations of criteria pollutants associated with management actions in compliance with applicable state and federal ambient air quality standards.
2. Maintain concentrations of Prevention of Significant Deterioration (PSD) pollutants associated with management actions in compliance with the applicable increment.
3. Reduce visibility-impairing pollutants in accordance with the reasonable progress goals and time frames established within the State of Wyoming's Regional Haze State Implementation Plan (SIP).
4. Reduce atmospheric deposition pollutants to levels below generally accepted Levels of Concern and Limits of Acceptable Change.

#### **Management Actions**

1. Air quality standards are maintained by the State of Wyoming, which determines whether it is necessary to regulate emissions. When necessary, the state will regulate emissions through its SIP for air quality by promulgating the appropriate rule. Objectives of the State of Wyoming SIP will include the protection of public health and safety and the well-being of sensitive natural resources. Thus, BLM will minimize, within the scope of its authority, any emissions that may add to atmospheric deposition, cause violations of air quality standards, or degrade visibility. The Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) will provide oversight responsibility during this process and will approve the State of Wyoming SIP.
2. Air quality standards are enforced by the Wyoming Department of Environmental Quality, Air Quality Division (WDEQ-AQD) with EPA oversight. Special requirements to alleviate air quality impacts will be considered on a case-by-case basis in processing land use authorizations.
3. BLM will cooperate with the operation of the National Atmospheric Deposition Program (NADP)/National Trends Network atmospheric deposition monitoring site, as well as in the collection of basic climate and meteorological data from remote automatic weather stations. The NADP sites included in this analysis are Snowy Range, Brooklyn Lake, and South Pass City.
4. BLM will follow the specific guidance for the application of air quality protection measures (presented in Appendix 4).
5. Manage air quality to meet the Wyoming Standards and Guidelines for Healthy Rangelands.

6. BLM will work cooperatively to develop an air quality assessment protocol to estimate potential future air quality.
7. BLM will manage prescribed burns to comply with WDEQ-AQD smoke management rules and regulations.
8. Within 1 year of approval of the RMP ROD, cooperatively establish an air quality strategy to define the background air quality associated with federal actions approved under this RMP.
9. Within 1 year of establishment of the air quality strategy, cooperatively establish and maintain a monitoring system to establish the air quality change over time related to federal actions.
10. BLM will work cooperatively to encourage industry to adopt measures to reduce emissions.
11. BLM will work cooperatively to estimate potential impacts from potential emissions reduction.
12. BLM will use best management practices (BMP) to reduce air quality impacts from federal actions.

## **2.3.2 Cultural Resources**

### **Management Goals**

1. Preserve and protect cultural resources to ensure that they are available for appropriate uses by present and future generations.
2. Reduce imminent threats from natural or human-caused deterioration or potential conflict with other resource uses.
3. Promote stewardship, conservation, and appreciation of cultural resources.
4. Promote and maintain a working relationship with Native American tribes.

### **Management Objectives**

1. Develop management plans for special areas or cultural resources (e.g., Aimee Eaton site, Powder Wash, Robbers Gulch, and Muddy Creek site complex) in areas of high risk for development or at high risk for adverse effects.
2. Maintain setting for those contributing portions of historic properties where setting is an aspect of integrity by utilizing viewshed management tools (e.g., sacred sites, Lincoln Highway, Union Pacific Railroad [UPRR] and associated sites).
3. Monitor the condition of historic properties that are known to be under threat from development or vandalism.
4. Identify cultural resources in the RMPPA by defining priority geographic areas for new field inventory, based on probability for unrecorded significant cultural resources.
5. Develop a public outreach and education program to instill a conservation ethic in the public regarding cultural resources.
6. Develop and maintain interpretation of cultural resources in areas of high public interest and access.
7. Consult proactively with Native American tribes as appropriate to identify resource types or places that may be affected by BLM authorizations or actions.

8. Seek opportunities for cooperation with tribal governments for management of cultural resources and public education.
9. Maintain an inventory and evaluate historic transportation routes for contributing or noncontributing status (Appendix 5).

### **Management Actions**

1. Where the integrity of setting contributes to National Register of Historic Places (NRHP) eligibility, management actions resulting in visual elements that diminish the integrity of the property's setting will be managed in accordance with the Wyoming State Protocol and BMPs (Appendix 5).
2. Implement protective measures for threatened sites based on the result of Section 110 inventory and monitoring (Appendix 5).
3. Cultural resources will be managed in accordance with guidance for Cultural Resource Use Allocations (Appendix 5)
4. Implement protection measures for sacred or sensitive sites as determined through consultation with Native American tribes.
5. Manage cultural resources to meet the Wyoming Standards for Healthy Rangelands.
6. Surface disturbing activities will not be allowed within one-quarter mile of a cultural property or the visual horizon, whichever is closer, if the setting contributes to NRHP eligibility.
7. Land acquisitions will be pursued to preserve cultural resources, as appropriate (Appendix 6).
8. Within sensitive areas (e.g., Chain Lakes area and dunal areas), surface disturbing activities will be subject to cultural monitoring on a case-by-case basis.

### **2.3.2.1 Historic Trails (Cherokee, Overland, Rawlins to Baggs, and Rawlins to Fort Washakie)**

#### **Management Goals**

1. Preserve and protect the historic trails to ensure that they are available for appropriate uses by present and future generations.
2. Reduce imminent threats from natural or human-caused deterioration or potential conflict with other resource uses.
3. Promote stewardship, conservation, and appreciation of historic trails.

#### **Management Objectives**

1. Develop management plans for historic trails or segments of historic trails in areas of high risk for development or at high risk for adverse effects.
2. Maintain setting for those contributing portions of historic trails where setting is an important aspect of integrity by utilizing viewshed management tools.
3. Monitor the condition of contributing portions of historic trails that are known to be under threat from development.
4. Maintain an inventory and evaluate trail segments and associated sites for contributing or noncontributing status.

5. Provide educational opportunities and public outreach programs.
6. Develop and maintain interpretation of historic trails in areas of high public interest and access.
7. Manage historic trails and other resources for long-term heritage, recreational, and educational values.

### **Management Actions**

1. The historic trails (Cherokee Trail, Overland Trail, the Rawlins to Baggs Road, and Rawlins to Fort Washakie Road) (contributing segments within 66,370 acres of federal lands) will be managed for the preservation of historic values.
2. Sections of the historic trails with intact trail traces will be preserved in their present condition. Historic trail use that would result in adverse effects to the trail trace (Appendix 5) will be evaluated on a case-by-case basis.
3. Actions resulting in linear crossings of the trails will occur in previously disturbed areas and will be managed in accordance with BMPs (Appendix 5).
4. Where the integrity of historic trails setting contributes to NRHP eligibility, management actions resulting in visual elements that diminish the integrity of the property's setting will be managed in accordance with the Wyoming State Protocol and BMPs (Appendix 5).
5. Surface disturbing and disruptive activities will not be allowed within one-quarter mile or the visual horizon, whichever is closer, of the historic trails (Map 2-47).
6. An area within one-quarter mile or the visual horizon of the trails, whichever is closer, is open to oil and gas leasing with an NSO stipulation. Surface disturbing and disruptive activities on existing leases will be managed according to BMPs (Appendix 5).
7. Public lands within one-quarter mile or the visual horizon of the trails, whichever is closer, are closed to operation of the public land laws within contributing portions of the trails. Public lands within one-quarter mile or the visual horizon of the trails, whichever is closer, are open to operation of the public land laws within noncontributing segments of the trails. Unevaluated portions of the trails will be managed as contributing until cultural resource inventories are conducted and an evaluation is made as to their contributing/noncontributing status (Appendix 5).
8. Public lands within one-quarter mile or the visual horizon, whichever is closer, are closed to mineral material sales within contributing portions of the trails. Public lands within one-quarter mile or the visual horizon of the trails, whichever is closer, are open to mineral material sales within the noncontributing portions of the trails. Unevaluated portions of the trails will be managed as contributing until cultural resource inventories are conducted and an evaluation is made as to their contributing/noncontributing status (Appendix 5).

## **2.3.3 Fire and Fuels Management**

### **Management Goals**

1. Protect human life, property, communities at risk, and other communities, and enhance and protect the public land resources through fuels management and appropriate management response (AMR) considering values to be protected and costs of suppression.
2. Complement and support state and local wildland fire actions through AMR.
3. Manage fire to restore natural ecosystem functions, reduce losses from catastrophic wildland fire, and protect multiple-use values.

## **Management Objectives**

1. BLM will first provide for firefighter and public safety.
2. Obtain input from private landowners, partners, and local, state, and other federal agencies on development of the RFO Fire Management Plan (Appendix 19).
3. Working with private landowners, partners, and local, state, and other federal agencies, identify areas for potential wildland fire use for the improvement of vegetation communities through collaborative development of wildland fire use plans.
4. Consult and cooperate with private landowners, partners, and local, state, and other federal agencies on individual treatments (such as prescribed fire and biological, mechanical, and chemical treatments) designed to reduce or modify hazardous fuels accumulations.
5. Minimize disturbances resulting from fire suppression activities on public lands.
6. Suppress wildland fires in identified priority areas, including those in wildland-urban and industrial interface areas adjacent to private lands and in the areas of campgrounds and significant cultural sites.

## **Management Actions**

1. Public lands within the checkerboard or other intermixed landownership areas will be managed in association with the private, state, and other federal agency lands therein. AMR will most often result in suppression activities.
2. AMRs for SD/MAs will protect or enhance the relevant and important values of the SD/MAs requiring special management attention.
3. A high priority for fire management activities will be given to areas identified as communities at risk, industrial interface areas, and areas containing resource values considered high priority within the RMPPA (Appendix 19).
4. Fuel treatments, including prescribed fire, mechanical, chemical, and biological treatments will be used for fuels reduction and to meet other multiple-use resource objectives, including returning fire to its natural role in the ecosystem (also see Section 2.3.14). Wildland-urban interfaces (WUI) and communities at risk will receive priority for fuels reduction.
5. Rehabilitation and restoration efforts specific to a fire event will be undertaken to protect and sustain ecosystems, public health and safety, and to help communities protect infrastructure.
6. Manage fire to meet the Wyoming Standards and Guidelines for Healthy Rangelands.
7. Wildland fire suppression activities in the entire RMPPA will be managed for AMR. Wildland fire for resource benefit will be used in identified locations (shown in Map 2-1) to protect, maintain, and enhance resources, and, as nearly as possible, allow fire to function in its natural ecological role.

## **2.3.4 Forest Management**

### **Management Goals**

1. Manage forest stand communities for health, composition, and diversity (considering density, basal area, canopy cover, age class, stand health, and understory) through forest management practices and to provide late successional vegetation for timber production while providing for multiple use.



2. Manage woodland communities (such as aspen, limber pine, and juniper) for a healthy mix of successional stages within the natural range of variation that incorporate diverse structure and composition into each forest stand type.

### **Management Objectives**

1. Maintain, restore, and enhance all forest communities in accordance with Wyoming Standards for Healthy Rangelands (forestlands), the Healthy Forest Initiative, and Healthy Forest Restoration Act of 2003. Where there are adjoining private and state forestlands, work cooperatively to attain the objective.
2. Maintain, restore, and enhance commercial forest communities for sustainable production and, where feasible, meet public demand for harvest of wood products (both minor and commercial; i.e., saw timber, post and poles, firewood, Christmas trees, wildlings/transplants) and improve opportunities to harvest forest products while providing for other forest values and uses. Where there are adjoining private and state forestlands, work cooperatively to attain the objective.
3. Utilize inventory and monitoring data to reduce fuels overloading within forest and woodland communities within identified areas of overloading.
4. Maintain, restore, and enhance forest stands to supply forest products to the public consistent with forest health, landscape restoration, and reduction of forest fuels objectives in coordination with private, local, state, and federal plans and policies.
5. Forestlands and woodlands within WSA areas will be managed to meet wilderness characteristics and healthy forest landscape objectives in accordance with management plans and Interim Management Policy.
6. Maintain, restore, and enhance all old growth forest stands (Appendix 19).
7. Maintain, restore, and enhance aspen communities (Appendix 19).

### **Management Actions**

*(Note: Also see Section 2.3.14.)*

1. All forest and woodlands (196,934 acres), with the exception of WSAs and developed recreation sites, are open to commercial and noncommercial harvest of minor wood products, such as fuelwood, posts and poles, Christmas trees, and wildlings. Forest and woodlands management will also include manipulation of aspen, juniper, and other noncommercial tree species to meet forest health and/or other multiple-use objectives.
2. Manage forest and woodlands to meet the Wyoming Standards for Healthy Rangelands.
3. Forests and woodlands will be managed using natural processes, prescribed fire, and chemical, mechanical, and biological treatments (Appendix 19).
4. About 21,813 acres of commercial forest in the RMPPA will be available for commercial timber harvest (Map 3-1).
5. About 6,700 acres of steep slopes and riparian areas and their associated buffer zones will not be available for commercial timber harvest.

## 2.3.5 Lands and Realty

### Management Goals

1. Manage the acquisition, disposal, withdrawal, and use of public lands to meet the needs of internal and external customers (i.e., to respond to community needs for expansion and economic development and to preserve important resource values) (Appendices 6, 7, and 34).
2. Improve management efficiency in areas of scattered or intermingled landownership patterns.
3. Review and evaluate the need and merits of current withdrawals.

### Management Objectives

1. Identify BLM-administered lands within the RMPPA available for acquisition, disposal, or withdrawal.
2. Develop and maintain a landownership pattern that will provide better access for management and protection of the public lands.
3. Respond to internal and external requests for land tenure adjustments (e.g., Recreation and Public Purpose Act actions, land sales, disposals, or exchanges).
4. Utilize appropriate actions (e.g., land tenure adjustments or easement acquisitions) to help solve problems related to intermixed landownership patterns.
5. Manage public lands to be consistent with goals and objectives of other resource programs.
6. Respond to internal and external requests (e.g., pipelines, access roads) for land authorizations.

### Management Actions

1. The RMPPA is open to operation of the public land laws and/or to locatable mineral entry (Mining Law of 1872) except for 935,530 acres of existing withdrawals.
2. In compliance with Section 204(1) of FLPMA, reviews of withdrawn lands in the RMPPA will be completed to determine whether existing withdrawals are serving or are needed for their intended purposes. The existing withdrawals in the RMPPA will remain in place unless or until it is determined they should be terminated and, if necessary, a plan amendment to the Rawlins RMP is made. Such determination or amendment will be based on full examination of the issues associated with withdrawal terminations, including the land use, environmental, and other factors associated with opening public lands now closed to entry under the public land laws or to mineral location under the mining laws. Where appropriate and necessary to protect other resource values, new withdrawals will be pursued and implemented prior to terminating any existing withdrawals. Existing and proposed withdrawals are listed in Table 2-2.
3. Coal classifications on 671,768 acres in the RMPPA are no longer necessary. (Coal classifications are no longer necessary because (1) the Federal Coal Leasing Amendments Act of 1976 requires competitive leasing on all, not just known, deposits of federal coal; and (2) the Multiple Mineral Development Act of 1954 established procedures to regulate conflicts between coal leases and mining claims.) Existing withdrawals will be reviewed and terminated, as appropriate.
4. When practicable, develop and maintain a landownership pattern that will provide better access for management and protection of the public lands (Appendix 6).

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5. Proposals for alternative energy development will be considered on a case-by-case basis. No proposals for alternative energy development, other than wind power, are anticipated to occur in the foreseeable future; therefore, only wind energy potential is considered. Proposals for location of wind energy development will be considered on a case-by-case basis and subject to a site-specific NEPA analysis. Areas with important or sensitive resource values will be excluded or avoided (Map 2-33a).
6. All BLM-administered public lands, except WSAs and some SD/MAs (including ACECs), are open to consideration for placement of transportation and utility ROW systems. Each transportation system and utility ROW will be located adjacent to existing facilities, when possible. Areas with important or sensitive resource values will be avoided. Existing major transportation and utility ROW routes, presented on Map 2-2, will be designated corridors. However, major transportation routes within the RMPPA that are located east of the Carbon County-Albany County line will not be considered for ROW corridor designation because of the scattered public landownership pattern in the area. All corridors will be designated for power lines (above ground and buried), telephone lines, fiber optic lines, pipelines, and other linear type ROWs. Specific proposals will require site-specific environmental analysis and compliance with established permitting processes. Activities generally excluded from ROW corridors include mineral materials disposal, range and wildlife habitat improvements involving surface disturbance and facility construction, campgrounds, and public recreation facilities and other facilities that would attract public use. ROW facilities will not be placed adjacent to each other if issues with safety or incompatibility or resource conflicts are identified. The designated width, allowable uses, and excluded uses for each corridor may be modified during implementation of the Approved RMP. All designated ROW corridors will avoid, to the extent possible, those areas identified on Map 2-33b and Table 2-5.
7. Mitigation requirements will be applied to activities related to utility/transportation systems to protect important resource values (Appendix 1).
8. Certain lands withdrawn for Seminole Reservoir (2,000 acres) are currently managed by the Bureau of Reclamation (BOR). The BOR identified these lands for revocation (Appendix 7)—to date, this revocation is not finalized. The lands considered for revocation have been reviewed by BOR and a determination made that the lands are suitable for return to public domain status because they are no longer needed for the purpose for which they were withdrawn. Lands considered for revocation have been reviewed by BLM for management options and a determination made that these lands will be managed the same as adjacent public lands.  
  
Certain lands withdrawn for the Savery-Pot Hook Project (1,205 acres) (Appendix 7) were revoked by PLO 7680 (72 FR 52386) dated September 13, 2007 (these lands are now under BLM jurisdiction). The lands considered for revocation have been reviewed by BOR and a determination made that the lands are suitable for return to public domain status because they are no longer needed for the purpose for which they were withdrawn. Lands considered for revocation have been reviewed by BLM for management options and a determination made that these lands will be managed the same as adjacent public lands.
9. Manage lands and realty actions to meet the Wyoming Standards for Healthy Rangelands.

### **Withdrawals**

1. Proposed withdrawals of about 16,980 acres will be pursued. These areas are closed to operation of the public land laws, including disposal, and/or to mineral location under the mining laws (Table 2-2).

**MAINTENANCE CHANGE SHEET**

<b>PLAN NAME:</b> Rawlins RMP			<b>AREA:</b> Rawlins Field Office		
<b>LOCATION OF CHANGE</b>					
Page No. 2-17		Paragraph No. Mngmt.Action #6		Line No. 8-10	
<b>CHANGE</b>					
(Describe exactly what is to be deleted, added, rewritten, etc.)					
Delete: N/A					
Insert: Add a reference to Appendix 34 - Designated Right-of-Way Corridor Criteria, as follows:					
... All corridors will be designated for power lines (above ground and buried), telephone lines, fiber optic lines, pipeline and other forms of linear type ROWs (Appendix 34). ...					
<b>REASON</b>					
(Describe exact rationale for above change to include reference material, i.e., EA, EIS, IM)					
The Record of Decision and Approved Rawlins Resource Management Plan did not contain a reference to Appendix 34 in the <b>Management Actions</b> section of <b>2.3.5 Lands and Realty</b> . While a reference to Appendix 34 is included in the <b>Management Goals</b> section, it is also appropriate to make reference to Appendix 34 in the <b>Management Actions</b> section.					
Note: Signed version of forms are retained at the Rawlins Field Office					
<b>SIGNATURE AS APPROPRIATE</b>					
Program Leader		<u>/s/ Heather Nino</u>		Date <u>11/04/2011</u>	
Field Office		<u>/s/ John Spehar</u>		Date <u>11/02/2011</u>	
Planning and Environmental Coordinator					
Field Manager		<u>/s/ Dennis Carpenter</u>		Date <u>11/03/2011</u>	

### ***Land Tenure Adjustment***

1. About 46,230 acres of BLM-administered public lands meet the FLPMA disposal criteria and are available for consideration for disposal (Maps 2-26 through 2-29 and Appendix 6).
2. Before taking any disposal action, consideration will be given to each individual tract and will include public involvement (Appendix 6).
3. The preferred method of disposal, consolidation, or acquisition of lands by BLM is through exchange (Appendix 6).

### ***Energy Development and Exploration***

1. The area within one-quarter mile of the incorporated boundaries of all cities/towns (1,500 acres) is open to oil and gas leasing with a no surface occupancy (NSO) stipulation. Existing oil and gas leases will be intensively managed.
2. The area within one-quarter mile of the incorporated boundaries of all cities/towns (1,500 acres) is closed to locatable mineral entry and mineral material disposals. Withdrawals will be pursued.

### ***Alternative Energy Development–Wind Energy Resources***

1. Areas with important resource values will be avoided (569,500 acres) or excluded (98,440 acres) in planning for new wind energy facility placement. If it becomes necessary for facilities to be placed within avoidance areas, effects will be intensively managed. Avoidance and exclusion areas are identified on Map 2-33a and Table 2-5.

### ***Utility/Transportation Systems***

1. Areas with important resource values will be avoided where possible in planning for new facility placement (600,290 acres). If it becomes necessary for facilities (i.e., linear ROWs) to be placed within avoidance areas, effects will be intensively managed. Avoidance and exclusion areas are identified on Map 2-33b and Table 2-5.

### ***Communication Sites***

1. Location of new communication sites will be evaluated on a case-by-case basis.
2. Areas with important resource values will be avoided where possible in planning for new facility placement and routes (600,290 acres). If it becomes necessary for facilities to be placed within avoidance areas, effects will be intensively managed. Avoidance and exclusion areas are identified on Map 2-33b and Table 2-5.

## **2.3.6 Livestock Grazing**

### **Management Goal**

1. Maintain and/or enhance livestock grazing opportunities and rangeland health.

### **Management Objectives**

1. Maintain, restore, and enhance livestock grazing to meet Wyoming Standards for Healthy Rangelands (Appendix 8) and achieve allotment objectives.
2. Encourage grazing permittees and the interested public to participate with BLM to monitor and evaluate rangeland health to determine appropriate management actions.

3. Utilize livestock grazing management techniques (Appendix 19) to maintain vegetation communities and ecosystem functions, in consultation and coordination with the grazing permittees and with participation by the interested public. Utilize data collected from scientifically based inventory and monitoring techniques to support decisions that authorize livestock grazing levels and management.
4. When feasible and providing Wyoming Standards for Healthy Rangelands are met, maintain and/or increase animal unit month (AUM) levels in the RMPPA for livestock grazing.
5. Identify opportunities and implement range and vegetation improvement projects to sustain and enhance livestock grazing and meet Wyoming Standards for Healthy Rangelands in cooperation, consultation, and coordination with the grazing permittees and the interested public (Appendix 19).
6. Mitigate direct, indirect, and cumulative livestock forage losses and impacts to livestock grazing (including impacts on livestock grazing operational capabilities and production performance) where opportunities exist.

### **Management Actions**

1. The entire RMPPA is available for livestock grazing. Areas such as developed recreation areas, wetland/riparian spring exclosures, and sensitive plant species exclosures will be excluded from grazing.
2. The current amounts, kinds, and seasons of livestock grazing use will be authorized until monitoring, field observations, ecological site inventory, or other data acceptable to BLM indicates a grazing use adjustment is needed, as appropriate. Requests for changes in season-of-use or kind-of-livestock will be considered on a case-by-case basis. Any decision regarding changes in grazing use will include cooperation, consultation, and coordination with the grazing permittees and the interested public.
3. Management of domestic sheep and goats will be in accordance with national BLM policy and will recognize and use to the extent possible the recommendations of the Wyoming Bighorn/Domestic Sheep Interaction Working Group. Domestic sheep avoidance areas are shown on Map 2-3.
4. Manage livestock grazing to meet the Wyoming Standards for Healthy Rangelands.
5. BLM will work closely with operators and others to determine the most appropriate methods for achieving the desired plant community (DPC), in addition to meeting the Standards for Healthy Rangelands (Appendices 8 and 19).
6. Grazing systems and range improvements will be designed to achieve the management goals for livestock grazing and to achieve and maintain healthy rangelands.
7. Changes in class of livestock within HMAs that would not impair management of wild horses will be considered.
8. Conversions from cattle or sheep to domestic bison will not be allowed in areas of blocked federal surface landownership (Map 2-34).

### **Fences**

1. New fence construction will be authorized according to BLM standards unless modified following consultation with affected parties. Existing fences will be modified according to current BLM standards and according to wildlife and livestock management needs.

## 2.3.7 Minerals

### Management Goal

1. Manage mineral resources from available BLM-administered public lands and federal minerals while minimizing the impacts to the environment, public health and safety, and other resource values and uses.

### Management Objectives

1. Provide for exploration and development of locatable minerals, except in withdrawn areas.
2. Provide opportunities for exploration and development of conventional and unconventional oil and gas, coal, and other leasable minerals.
3. Provide opportunities for exploration and development of salable minerals.

### Management Actions

1. Existing oil and gas or other mineral rights will be honored. When an oil and gas lease is issued, it constitutes a valid existing right, and BLM cannot unilaterally change the terms and conditions of a lease (Appendix 20).
2. The lessee is subject to stipulations attached to the lease; restrictions deriving from specific, nondiscretionary statutes; and such reasonable measures needed to minimize impacts to other resources and resource users. Oil and gas lease stipulations may be modified or eliminated using the exception, modification, or waiver criteria (Appendix 9). BLM may impose reasonable measures (conditions of approval) to operational aspects of oil and gas development, including modification of siting or design of facilities, timing of operations, and specifying interim or final reclamation measures to control the manner and pace of development.
3. All lands open to oil and gas leasing consideration will also be open to geophysical exploration, subject to appropriate resource surveys, surface protection measures, adequate bonding, and adherence to State of Wyoming standards for geophysical operations.
4. Coal activity analyzed in the RMP Final EIS includes coal reclamation activity on existing leases in the Hanna Basin and coal mining activity on an existing lease in Carbon Basin. *Note: This is mining activity on an existing Carbon Basin lease that is exempt from the BLM's coal screening/planning process because of a prior plan amendment and coal EIS for the Carbon Basin completed under the Great Divide RMP in 1998 (Appendix 2, Introduction).*

Only the first two steps of the coal screening process (coal development potential and unsuitability criteria – see Appendix 2) have been conducted on the areas containing federal coal outside of the Carbon Basin. Completion of the first two steps resulted in a determination that approximately 4,990 acres (containing an estimated 70.1 million tons of surface minable coal) were unsuitable for surface coal mining. Approximately 51,250 acres (containing an estimated 2,318.7 million tons of surface minable coal) (Map A2-1) were identified as suitable for further leasing consideration pending application of the remaining coal screens (i.e., multiple-use conflicts and surface owner consultation). The unsuitable coal areas are depicted in Appendix 2, Maps A2-2, A2-3, and A2-4. The remaining steps of the coal screening process described in 43 CFR 3420.1-4 will be completed upon receipt of a lease-by-application.

Per regulations found at 43 CFR 3461.3-2, the unsuitability criteria are not applied to lands currently leased for coal. Within the RMPPA, seven existing coal leases are exempt from the coal screening process: Hanna Basin (six leases—19,016 acres of federal coal land—are in final

reclamation status, and no new mining will occur on these leases) and Carbon Basin (one lease—5,235 acres of federal coal land—is currently undergoing only minor mining activity).

In Carbon Basin, in addition to the existing lease acreage described above, an additional 6,693 acres and 163,300,000 tons of federal coal are acceptable for further leasing consideration as a result of the 1998 Carbon Basin RMP Amendment to the GDRMP, which applied all four planning screens. This acreage could be leased without further planning decisions beyond updating the screens. Of the 6,693 acres of federal coal lands, 120 acres are acceptable for leasing consideration by subsurface mining methods only.

On federal coal lands with development potential outside of Carbon Basin where only the unsuitability criteria were applied, new decisions to identify lands acceptable for further consideration for leasing will be deferred until after a lease application is received. Coal leases will be considered on a case-by-case basis only, as lease applications are received. The first two steps of the coal screening process will be updated, and coal screening will be completed (including the multiple-use screen and the surface owner consultation screen). If lands are determined to be acceptable for further consideration for coal leasing, a plan amendment would be required.

Federal coal lease applications will be accepted only on those federal coal lands with development potential identified as suitable for further leasing consideration after application of the coal unsuitability criteria (the above-mentioned approximately 51,250 acres and 2,318.7 million tons of surface minable federal coal). See Map A2-1, Coal Development Potential, and Maps A2-2, A2-3, and A2-4 Unsuitable Lands with Coal Development Potential, and Appendix 2.

5. Vehicular use for “necessary tasks” (as defined in the Glossary), such as geophysical exploration including project survey and layout, will be permitted except where specifically prohibited (e.g., some SD/MAs).
6. With the exception of WSAs and some other SD/MAs, the remainder of the RMPPA is open to consideration for leasing of geothermal resources and nonenergy leasable minerals.
7. Lands within the RMPPA that have potential for oil shale will be leased only for conventional oil and gas and coalbed natural gas exploration and development (Appendix 20). Oil shale will be specifically excluded from any oil and gas lease. This RMP will be amended upon completion of the Programmatic Environmental Impact Statement for leasing of oil shale and tar sands on lands administered by the BLM in Utah, Colorado, and Wyoming.
8. Approximately 935,530 acres are subject to continued public land withdrawals precluding locatable mineral entry. An area is closed to mineral location through a mineral segregation for 2 years by issuing a *Federal Register* notice. A mineral report and withdrawal actions are pursued during that 2-year period. If the withdrawal is approved, the area is withdrawn from locatable mineral entry. If the withdrawal is not approved, the area reverts to open to mineral location. The withdrawal affects only new claims, not existing rights.
9. Mineral material disposals are discretionary actions. Disposal will be considered on a case-by-case basis.
10. Manage minerals to meet the Wyoming Standards for Healthy Rangelands.

### **Oil and Gas**

1. Surface disturbing activities will be intensively managed (as defined in the Glossary) and will be subject to reclamation practices (Appendix 36). Leases will be issued with stipulations to protect



resource values. Oil and gas stipulations for each oil and gas classification are presented in Table 2-6, Map 2-38, and Appendix 20.

2. *Oil and Gas Classification A.* Areas open to leasing, subject to the terms and conditions of the standard lease form.

803,070 acres of federal oil and gas leasable lands, presented on Map 2-38, are open to leasing and subject to standard lease stipulations (Appendix 20).

3. *Oil and Gas Classification B.* Areas open to leasing, subject to moderate constraints such as seasonal restrictions. These are areas where it has been determined that moderately restrictive lease stipulations may be required to mitigate impacts on other land uses or resource values.

3,070,180 acres of federal oil and gas leasable lands, presented on Map 2-38, are open to leasing and subject to lease stipulations such as seasonal restrictions.

4. *Oil and Gas Classification C.* Areas open to leasing, subject to major constraints such as NSO stipulations on an area more than 40 acres or more than one-quarter mile wide. In these areas, it has been determined that highly restrictive lease stipulations are required to mitigate impacts on other lands or resource values. This classification also includes areas where overlapping moderate constraints would severely limit development of fluid mineral resources.


605,860 acres of federal oil and gas leasable lands, presented on Map 2-38, are open to leasing and subject to lease stipulations such as NSO.

5. *Oil and Gas Classification D.* Areas closed to leasing. These are areas where it has been determined that other land uses or resource values cannot be adequately protected with even the most restrictive lease stipulations; appropriate protection can be ensured only by closing the lands to leasing.

73,230 acres of federal oil and gas leasable lands, presented on Map 2-38, are closed to leasing.

### **Locatable Minerals**

1. About 16,980 acres will be withdrawn from locatable mineral entry under proposed withdrawals (Table 2-2 and Map 2-41).
2. Plans of operation are required for locatable minerals activities that would cause surface disturbance (except casual use) regardless of the size of the disturbance for the following ACECs (Maps 2-9a and 2-9c):

- Blowout Penstemon ACEC (~~17,050~~) 
- Sand Hills/JO Ranch ACEC (12,680 acres).

22-1

## **2.3.8 Off-Highway Vehicles**

### **Management Goal**

1. Manage OHV use and ensure the continued availability of OHV opportunities.

### **Management Objectives**

1. Provide for the health and safety of visitors.
2. Locate and manage OHV use to prevent or mitigate resource damage resulting from OHV uses.
3. Coordinate with other programs to minimize conflicts and adverse impacts on OHV opportunities.

Maintenance Change No. 22-1

## MAINTENANCE CHANGE SHEET

<b>PLAN NAME:</b> Record of Decision and Approved Rawlins Resource Management Plan			
<b>AREA:</b> Rawlins Field Office			
<b>LOCATION OF CHANGE</b>			
Page No. 2-22X	Paragraph No. 11	Column n/a	Line No. 4
<b>CHANGE</b>			
(Describe exactly what is to be deleted, added, rewritten, etc.)			
Delete: Acreage 17,050			
Insert: 29,150 acres			
<b>REASON</b>			
(Describe exact rationale for above change to include reference material, i.e., EA, EIS, IM)			
The Blowout Penstemon ACEC boundary was expanded by Amendment in 201, and then adjusted to remove non-habitat areas of three allotments. The first acreage change at this location in the ROD was missed so was included in one change. The new acreage of the Blowout Penstemon ACEC is now 29,150 acres where plans of operation are required for locatable minerals activities that would cause surface disturbance.			
<b>SIGNATURE AS APPROPRIATE</b>			
Program Leader <u>/s/Heath L. Cline</u>		Date <u>December 2, 2019</u>	
Field Office <u>/s/Susan Foley</u>		Date <u>December 2, 2019</u>	
Planning and Environmental Coordinator			
Field Manager <u>/s/Dennis J. Carpenter</u>		Date <u>December 2, 2019</u>	

4. Provide public education regarding appropriate use of BLM lands.
5. Provide an adequate/safe OHV network.

### **Management Actions**

1. With some exceptions, the RMPPA is open to use of motorized, over-the-snow vehicles provided they do not adversely affect wildlife or vegetation (see Section 2.3.12 for specific OHV exceptions).
2. The RMPPA is divided into areas that are open, limited, or closed to OHV travel (Appendix 21 and Map 2-44). Those areas that are designated limited may have seasonal restrictions or travel limitations to either existing or designated roads and vehicle routes or any combination of these. Until the designation process is completed, travel in limited to designated Areas will remain limited to existing roads and vehicle routes. Travel on parcels of public land not having legal public access will remain limited to existing roads and vehicle routes. Travel on parcels of public land that do not have legal public access will remain limited to existing roads and vehicle routes. Travel management areas (TMA) within the RMPPA are defined as those areas identified as OHV areas as "Limited to Designated Roads and Trails," "Closed," or "Open" and defined as those areas selected as "Limited to Designated Roads and Trails," "Closed," or "Open" (Map 2-44).
3. Off-road motor vehicle use is allowed for necessary tasks except in WSAs and specific SD/MAs (see Section 2.3.12).
4. The Encampment River Canyon Area (about 4,500 acres) will be closed December 1 to April 30 to motorized vehicle use, including over-the-snow vehicles, to reduce stress on wildlife that may winter in the canyon area. The Encampment River Trail will be closed to all types of motorized vehicle use year round.
5. In localized areas, temporary, seasonal, or permanent closures to motorized vehicle use may occur for public health and safety concerns or for the protection of resources.
6. Manage OHV use to meet the Wyoming Standards for Healthy Rangelands.

### **Motorized Vehicle Use**

1. Motorized vehicle use in the Dune Ponds Cooperative Management Area (3,730 acres) is limited to existing roads and vehicle routes on vegetated portions of the area. The nonvegetated sand areas of the active dunes are open to OHV use (Map 2-44).
2. OHV use to retrieve big game kills is allowed within 300 feet of existing roads and vehicle routes, except where roads and vehicle routes are closed and in WSAs and specific SD/MAs.
3. OHV use to access camping sites is limited to within 300 feet of existing roads and vehicle routes, except where roads and vehicle routes are closed and in WSAs and specific SD/MAs.
4. 3,730 acres are open to OHV use (Map 2-44 and Appendix 21).  
2,190,690 acres are limited to either designated or existing roads and vehicle routes.  
1,283,930 acres are limited to existing roads and vehicle routes (within the checkerboard or other intermixed landownership areas).  
46,370 acres are closed to OHV use.
5. 12,700 acres are limited to designated roads and vehicle routes and closed to over-the-snow vehicles (Map 2-44 and Appendix 21).

6. 14,060 acres will be seasonally closed to OHV use (Map 2-44 and Appendix 21).

### 2.3.9 Paleontology

#### Management Goals

1. Maintain the integrity of the scientific value of paleontological resources.
2. Reduce imminent threats from natural or human-caused deterioration, or potential conflict with other resource uses.
3. Promote stewardship, conservation, and appreciation of paleontological resources.

#### Management Objectives

1. Identify paleontological resources by defining priority inventory areas based on probability of occurrence of high-value resources.
2. Assess the need for project or site-specific treatment plans or other protective measures in areas of high risk for development or at high risk for adverse effects.
3. Develop, maintain, and encourage opportunities for scientific research of paleontological resources.
4. Provide educational opportunities and public outreach programs.
5. Develop and maintain interpretation of paleontological resources in areas of high public interest and access.

#### Management Actions

*(Note: This section presents actions for the management of paleontological resources. Section 2.3.12.4 discusses the management actions for the Como Bluff NNL.)*

1. Paleontological resources will be managed to protect their important scientific values. Area closures, restrictions, or other mitigation requirements for the protection of paleontological values will be determined on a case-by-case basis.
2. Collecting of scientifically significant vertebrate fossils by qualified paleontologists is allowed by permit only.
3. Manage paleontological resources to meet the Wyoming Standards for Healthy Rangelands.
4. Develop interpretive facilities (such as signs, kiosks, and developed areas) at specific localities with high paleontological values on a case-by-case basis.
5. Collection of fossils from public lands is allowed with some restrictions, depending on the significance of the fossils. Hobby collection of common invertebrate or plant fossils by the public is allowed in reasonable quantities using hand tools.
6. Utilize on-the-ground survey prior to approval of surface disturbing activities or land disposal actions for Class 4 and Class 5 formations to avoid resource-bearing strata on a case-by-case basis. Monitor during surface disturbing activities in potential resource bearing strata on a case-by-case basis. Survey and monitor on a case-by-case basis following discovery for Class 3 formations.

## 2.3.10 Recreation and Visitor Services

### Management Goals

1. Ensure the continued availability and accessibility of outdoor recreational opportunities.
2. Manage recreation resources to accommodate existing and future uses.

### Management Objectives

1. Provide for the health and safety of visitors.
2. Prevent or mitigate resource damage resulting from recreation uses.
3. Coordinate with other programs to minimize conflicts and adverse impacts on recreational opportunities.
4. In the Western Extensive Recreation Management Area (ERMA) (Map 2-17), consider the above recreation objectives during development involving surface disturbing or disruptive activity. Consider the Adobe Town Dispersed Recreation Management Area desired future condition during development involving surface disturbing or disruptive activity.
5. In the Eastern ERMA (Map 2-17), retain the quality of dispersed recreation opportunities and settings (with the exception of isolated development areas, such as coal mines or wind generation facilities) while meeting the above recreation objectives.
6. Provide public education regarding appropriate use of BLM lands.
7. Provide opportunities for public use, interpretation, education, and appreciation of natural and cultural resources.

### Management Actions

1. Existing recreation sites will be maintained or improved to ensure continued availability to the recreating public. Additional recreation sites will be considered for development based on need or demand, site suitability, and legal public access (Map 3-7).
2. The entire RMPPA is open to dispersed recreation with the exception of specific areas that must be excluded to protect public health and safety or special resource values.
3. Manage recreation to meet the Wyoming Standards for Healthy Rangelands.
4. Developed and undeveloped recreation sites (9,660 acres) and the surrounding one-quarter mile area (an additional 7,930 acres) are open to oil and gas leasing with an NSO stipulation (Map 3-7).
5. Lands within one-quarter mile of developed and undeveloped recreation sites (17,590 acres) are closed to locatable mineral entry, mineral material disposals, and operation of the public land laws, including sale (Map 3-7). Withdrawals will be pursued. Buried utilities will be allowed with adequate reclamation of the surface. Above-ground facilities will be avoided unless adequately mitigated to protect the recreation site viewshed.
6. The Adobe Town Dispersed Recreation Use Area (238,970 acres) (Map 2-17) will be a priority for reclamation after oil and gas development ceases (Appendix 37).
7. Special recreation permits will not be issued for prairie dog hunting.

### **2.3.10.1 Special Recreation Management Areas**

#### **Continental Divide National Scenic Trail SRMA**

##### **Management Goals**

1. Manage to emphasize interpretive and educational opportunities.
2. Ensure the continued availability of outdoor recreation opportunities associated with the Continental Divide National Scenic Trail (CDNST).

##### **Management Objectives**

1. Comply with the CDNST Comprehensive Plan.
2. Locate the trail so users may experience available examples of the great diversity of topographic, geologic, vegetation, and scenic phenomenon in proximity to the Continental Divide.
3. Provide users with opportunities to view, experience, and appreciate examples of prehistoric and historic human use of the resources along the Continental Divide, and examples of the ways these resources on public lands are being managed in harmony with the environment, as an asset to the existing character of the Continental Divide, and which will not detract from the overall experience of the trail.
4. Provide a route that will have a minimum adverse effect on adjacent natural and cultural environments and harmonize with the management objectives of land and resource uses that are now or may be occurring on the lands through which the trail passes.
5. Maintain and enhance recreation opportunities for residents and visitors to the area to accommodate camping, wildlife viewing, and other compatible uses in prescribed settings so visitors are able to realize experiences and benefits (Table 2-11).
6. Pursue opportunities for partnership and cooperative management with adjacent property owners.
7. Maintain, restore, and enhance areas within CDNST to meet Wyoming Standards for Healthy Rangelands.

##### **Management Actions**

1. The CDNST (600 acres; the federal portion of the trail is about 82 miles long and is located within a one-quarter-mile wide corridor) will be managed to provide opportunities for trail users to view the diverse topographic, geographic, vegetation, wildlife, and scenic phenomena that characterize the Continental Divide and to observe examples of human use of the natural resources. The prescribed setting for the CDNST is middle country.
2. The SRMA (600 acres; Map 2-17a) will be managed to protect the corridor. Land exchanges and easement acquisitions will be pursued to improve the continuity of the trail where opportunities arise (Appendix 6). Kiosks will be erected at each end of the RMPPA portion of the trail to provide information on access to the trail.
3. Implementation of the CDNST Comprehensive Plan will potentially result in a significant rerouting of the trail and/or trail corridor. Pursue agreements with private landowners to facilitate routing of the trail and to improve the quality of recreational experiences.
4. The one-quarter-mile wide corridor is open to oil and gas leasing with an NSO stipulation. Existing oil and gas leases will be intensively managed.

5. Reclaim unnecessary or undesirable vehicle routes.
6. Manage the CDNST to meet the Wyoming Standards for Healthy Rangelands.
7. Public lands (600 acres) are open to locatable mineral entry.
8. Public lands (600 acres) are closed to mineral material disposal.
9. Public lands (600 acres) are open to the operation of the public land laws.

## **North Platte River SRMA**

### **Management Goal**

1. Manage to ensure the continued availability of outdoor recreation opportunities associated with the North Platte and Encampment Rivers.

### **Management Objectives**

1. Maintain or enhance recreation opportunities to accommodate existing niche activities, including hunting, fishing, camping, wildlife viewing, OHV touring, and other uses appropriate to the prescribed setting.
2. Mitigate conflicts with other resource values and uses as appropriate, in coordination and cooperation with affected interests.
3. Maintain or improve the quality of river-related recreational experience along the North Platte and Encampment Rivers to continue to provide high-quality recreational experiences and benefits to local residents and visitors to the area (Table 2-11).
4. Maintain, restore, and enhance areas within the North Platte River area to meet Wyoming Standards for Healthy Rangelands.

### **Management Actions**

1. The SRMA (5,060 acres, including the one-quarter-mile area on either side of the river; Map 2-17b) will be managed to provide high-quality recreational opportunities, especially for floating, fishing, camping, and sightseeing. Current public facilities and access will be maintained to support the values of the SRMA.
2. Access opportunities to the North Platte River will be identified and pursued.
3. Manage commercial outfitting to disperse river usage.
4. Manage the river parcels to meet middle country guidelines and reclaim unnecessary or undesirable vehicle routes.
5. Manage the North Platte River area to meet the Wyoming Standards for Healthy Rangelands.
6. Manage OHV use as limited to designated roads or vehicle routes.
7. The SRMA is open to oil and gas leasing with an NSO stipulation. Existing oil and gas leases will be intensively managed.
8. The SRMA is open to locatable mineral entry and closed to mineral material disposals. Surface disturbing and disruptive activities will be restricted to maintain the quality of the visual resource.
9. Surface disturbing activities on public lands within one-quarter mile on either side of the river will be intensively managed to maintain the quality of the visual resource.

## **OHV SRMA**

### **Management Goal**

1. Provide opportunities for a safe OHV riding opportunity and OHV use education for local residents and visitors to the area.

### **Management Objectives**

1. Communicate riding ethics and regulations and designate open areas for OHV practice and skill development.
2. Maintain, restore, and enhance areas within the OHV SRMA to meet Wyoming Standards for Healthy Rangelands; manage the area to maintain a front country setting.
3. Maintain or enhance a diversity of recreational and OHV experiences and benefits (Table 2-11).

### **Management Actions**

1. Manage the OHV SRMA to meet the Wyoming Standards for Healthy Rangelands.
2. Develop OHV areas when needs are identified to promote educational programs in cooperation with partners on riding ethics and regulations.

## **Shirley Mountain SRMA**

### **Management Goal**

1. Ensure the continued availability and diversity of outdoor recreation opportunities in the Shirley Mountains.

### **Management Objectives**

1. Maintain or enhance a diversity of recreational opportunities, benefits, and niche activities, including camping, hunting, and dispersed recreational use (Table 2-11).
2. Manage conflicts with other resource values and uses in coordination and cooperation with affected interests.
3. Manage the area to meet middle country setting guidelines.
4. Stop road proliferation and reduce the number of two-track roads.
5. Reclaim unnecessary or undesirable vehicle routes.
6. Maintain, restore, and enhance areas within Shirley Mountain area to meet Wyoming Standards for Healthy Rangelands.

### **Management Actions**

1. The Shirley Mountain SRMA (37,820 acres; Map 2-17c) will be retained and expanded.
2. Develop primitive camping sites to disperse camping, ensuring compatibility with a middle country setting.
3. Improve travel management to facilitate public access (Appendix 21).
4. Pursue land tenure adjustments to reduce trespass on private property.



5. Manage OHV use as limited to designated roads or vehicle routes.
6. Manage the Shirley Mountain area to meet the Wyoming Standards for Healthy Rangelands.
7. The SRMA is open to oil and gas leasing with an NSO stipulation. Existing oil and gas leases will be intensively managed.

### **2.3.11 Socioeconomics**

#### **Management Goals**

1. Provide opportunities to develop national energy resources on BLM-administered lands within the RMPPA.
2. Provide opportunities to develop resources other than those related to energy (e.g., grazing, recreation, wildlife, fisheries, and tourism) on BLM-administered lands within the RMPPA.
3. Provide opportunities to sustain the cultural, social, and economic viability of local and regional communities by using decision review processes that include considerations of various potential impacts of BLM decisions, including housing, employment, population, fiscal impacts, social services, cultural character, and municipal utilities.

#### **Management Objectives**

1. Work cooperatively with private and community groups and local government to provide for customary uses consistent with other resource objectives and to sustain or improve local, regional, and national economies.
2. Maintain and promote the cultural, economic, ecological, and social health within the RMPPA.

### **2.3.12 Special Designations and Management Areas**

*(Note: A summary of special management designations and the associated acreages is presented in Table 2-7. Not all special designations and management areas include actions that address all other resource programs. Where resource-specific actions are not included for a specific special designation, refer to the management actions under each resource heading that apply to the entire RMPPA. The acreages presented in the Special Designations and Management Areas section below apply only to public land acres.)*

#### **2.3.12.1 Wilderness Study Areas**

##### **Management Goal**

1. Ensure the WSAs retain their suitability for preservation as wilderness.

##### **Management Objectives**

1. Maintain the nonimpairment standard.
2. Prevent unnecessary or undue degradation.
3. Where possible, enhance wilderness values.

## Management Actions

1. All WSAs (Adobe Town, Prospect Mountain, Bennett Mountain, Encampment River Canyon, and Ferris Mountain) (Map 2-6; Table 2-7) will be managed according to the Interim Management Policy for Lands Under Wilderness Review until Congress either designates each WSA as “wilderness” or releases it from consideration and the land reverts to multiple-use management. Management direction for WSAs, should they be released from wilderness consideration by Congress, will be evaluated through the planning process, which may result in a future RMP amendment.
2. The Adobe Town WSA is closed to OHV use (32,650 acres) (Map 2-6a).
3. The Prospect Mountain WSA (1,140 acres) is closed to all types of motorized vehicle use (Map 2-6b).
4. The Bennett Mountains WSA (5,950 acres) is closed to all types of motorized vehicle use (Map 2-6c).
5. The Encampment River Canyon WSA (4,500 acres) is closed to all types of motorized vehicle use (Map 2-6d).
6. The Ferris Mountains WSA (21,880 acres) is open to all types of motorized vehicles on designated roads and vehicle routes (Map 2-6e).

### 2.3.12.2 Areas of Critical Environmental Concern

*(Note: Appendix 22 summarizes the BLM’s ACEC designation process. Appendix 22 also includes the relevance and importance evaluations for designated ACECs.)*

#### Management Goal (Overall) for ACECs

1. Protect the integrity of unique resource values, preserve historic significance, and provide opportunity for other uses within ACECs (Map 2-9; Table 2-7), where appropriate.

#### Management Objective (Overall) for ACECs

1. Maintain, restore, and enhance ACECs to meet Wyoming Standards for Healthy Rangelands, as applicable.

#### Management Action (Overall) for ACECs

1. Manage ACECs to meet the Wyoming Standards for Healthy Rangelands.

### Blowout Penstemon ACEC

#### Management Goal

1. Manage the endangered blowout penstemon plant and its habitat.

#### Management Objectives

1. Maintain, restore, and enhance the unique parabolic dune complex.
2. Protect the area to ensure the continued existence of the plant and to allow for continued research.

**Management Actions**

31-1

31-2

1. The blowout penstemon endangered plant habitat area (~~17,050~~ acres) will be managed as an ACEC (Map 2-9a).
2. The ACEC is open to locatable mineral entry and closed to mineral material disposals.
3. Plans of operations are required for locatable federal mineral exploration and development (except casual use), regardless of the number of acres that may be disturbed.
4. Fire suppression activities will be utilized to maintain early succession plant communities.
5. Actively pursue land tenure adjustments, including acquisition of lands, easements, or exchange, to meet the ACEC management goals (Appendix 6).
6. Off-road motor vehicle use for “necessary tasks” (as defined in the Glossary) is not allowed. Exceptions will be considered on a case-by-case basis.
7. Motorized vehicle use is limited to designated roads and vehicle routes. Closures of specific areas to motorized vehicle use will be considered on a case-by-case basis to meet the objectives of the ACEC.
8. OHV use to retrieve big game kills or access camp sites is prohibited off designated roads and vehicle routes.
9. Surface disturbing activities will be intensively managed in areas that contain habitat for the blowout penstemon to maintain or enhance habitat for the plant.
10. BLM-administered public lands that contain occupied habitat for the blowout penstemon plant will not be exchanged or sold.

**Cave Creek Cave ACEC****Management Goals**

1. Protect the hibernaculum and maternity roost for several bat species located within Cave Creek Cave.
2. Maintain back country setting conditions in the cave and provide recreational opportunities consistent with protecting hibernaculum and maternity roost.

**Management Objectives**

1. Maintain and protect the cave ecosystem for wildlife species, especially bats.
2. Accommodate recreation demand for caving while protecting sensitive cave resources.
3. Acquire legal public vehicle access to cave entrance.

**Management Actions**

1. The Cave Creek Cave area (240 acres) will be managed as an ACEC (Map 2-9b).
2. Manage sales of minor wood products to ensure that forest product removal in the area does not affect the temperature of water entering the cave.
3. Timber harvesting will not be allowed within one-quarter mile of the bat cave complex (Cave Creek).

Amendment Change No. 31-1

## AMENDMENT CHANGE SHEET

**PLAN NAME:** Record of Decision and Approved Rawlins Resource Management Plan

**AREA:** Rawlins Field Office

### LOCATION OF CHANGE

Page No. 2-31      Paragraph No. XX      Column n/a      Line No. 2.

### CHANGE

(Describe exactly what is to be deleted, added, rewritten, etc.)

Delete: Acreage 17,050

Insert: 29,312 acres

### REASON

(Describe exact rationale for above change to include reference material, i.e., EA, EIS, IM)

Blowout Penstemon ACEC boundary was expanded to encompass additional recently found populations of the endangered plant. The RMP was amended by the *Resource Management Plan Amendment and Environmental Assessment for Visual Resource Management and the Final RMP Amendment for the Blowout Penstemon Area of Critical Environmental Concern*, approved October 3, 2018 (Map 2-50). Document located at <https://go.usa.gov/xEcpW>

### SIGNATURE AS APPROPRIATE

Program Leader Heath L. Cline      Date December 2, 2019

Field Office      /s/Susan Foley      Date December 2, 2019  
Planning and Environmental Coordinator

Field Manager /s/Dennis J. Carpenter      Date December 2, 2019

State Director      \_\_\_\_\_      Date \_\_\_\_\_

Maintenance Change No. 31-2

## MAINTENANCE CHANGE SHEET

**PLAN NAME:** Record of Decision and Approved Rawlins Resource Management Plan

**AREA:** Rawlins Field Office

### LOCATION OF CHANGE

Page No. 2-31    Paragraph No. XX    Column n/a    Line No. 2

### CHANGE

(Describe exactly what is to be deleted, added, rewritten, etc.)

Delete: Acreage 29,312

Insert: 29,150

### REASON

(Describe exact rationale for above change to include reference material, i.e., EA, EIS, IM)

The boundary of the Blowout Penstemon ACEC was established based on aliquant parts. There is no blowout penstemon plant habitat identified between the aliquant parts line and three allotment fences. Based on this, the ACEC boundary will now follow the actual allotment fence boundary in three locations removing those portions of the ACEC from the Ferris Mountain Allotment, Buzzard Ranch Meadows Allotment and the Sand Creek Ranch Pasture Allotment. This action will remove 162 acres of non-habitat from the ACEC. The new acreage of the Blowout Penstemon ACEC is now 29,150 acres.

### SIGNATURE AS APPROPRIATE

Program Leader /s/Heath L. Cline    Date December 2, 2019

Field Office    /s/Susan Foley    Date December 2, 2019  
Planning and Environmental Coordinator

Field Manager /s/Dennis J. Carpenter    Date December 2, 2019

4. Public lands are closed to land tenure adjustments, including sale. Withdrawals will be pursued.
5. Public lands are closed to locatable mineral entry (240 acres). Withdrawals from locatable mineral entry will be pursued.
6. Public lands are closed to mineral material disposals.
7. The area is open to oil and gas leasing. Surface disturbing activities will be intensively managed to meet the objectives of the ACEC.
8. Seasonal closure of the Cave Creek Cave gate to human occupancy is from October 15 through April 30 for the protection of the bat hibernaculum.
9. Off-road motor vehicle use for “necessary tasks” (as defined in the Glossary) is allowed.
10. The ACEC is designated an AMR fire suppression area. Heavy equipment use will be limited in this area.

## Sand Hills/JO Ranch ACEC

### Management Goals

1. Manage the resources in the Sand Hills/JO Ranch ACEC to protect the unique vegetation community complex, maintain wildlife habitat values, minimize soil erosion, and promote recreational opportunities.
2. Manage and protect the JO Ranch for historical and cultural values.

### Management Objectives

1. Preserve the JO Ranch as an example of ranching culture, including public interpretation and education.
2. Provide recreational access while maintaining vegetation community and wildlife values.
3. Maintain, restore, or enhance the unique vegetation community and wildlife and livestock use.

### Management Actions



1. The Sand Hills/JO Ranch (~~12,680~~ acres) will be managed as an ACEC (Map 2-9c).
2. No surface occupancy is allowed on the 18 acres around the JO Ranch buildings. Developments, uses, and facilities will be managed spatially to avoid damage to vegetation.
3. The ACEC is designated an AMR area with emphasis on fire suppression.
4. The area is open to federal oil and gas leasing. Surface disturbing activities on oil and gas leases will be intensively managed to meet the objectives of the ACEC.
5. Plans of operations are required for locatable federal mineral exploration and development (except casual use), regardless of the number of acres that may be disturbed.
6. The area is closed to mineral material disposals.
7. Big game seasonal closures to motor vehicle use will be implemented as needed.
8. Off-road motor vehicle use for “necessary tasks” (as defined in the Glossary) is allowed.
9. OHV use in the Sand Hills/JO Ranch ACEC (12,680 acres) is limited to designated roads and vehicle routes and closed to over-the-snow vehicles.

32-1

32-2

32-3

**MAINTENANCE CHANGE SHEET**

**PLAN NAME:** Rawlins RMP    **AREA:** Rawlins Field Office

**LOCATION OF CHANGE**

Page No.    2-32    Paragraph No. Sand Hills/JO Ranch ACEC Management Actions  
Line No. Management Action #1

**CHANGE**

(Describe exactly what is to be deleted, added, rewritten, etc.)

Delete: The Sand Hills/JO Ranch (12,680 acres) will be managed as an ACEC (Map 2-9c).

Insert: The Sand Hills/JO Ranch (11,943 acres) will be managed as an ACEC (Map 2-9c).

**REASON**

(Describe exact rationale for above change to include reference material, i.e., EA, EIS, IM)

The acreage within the Sand Hills/JO Ranch ACEC was reduced due to the overlap of public land acres with the Upper Muddy Creek Watershed/Grizzly WHMA (UMCW/G WHMA). The public land acreage was retained within the UMCW/G WHMA because the goals and objectives for the UMCW/G WHMA provide the best fit and intent for management of the public lands within the entire watershed.

Note: Signed version of forms are retained at the Rawlins Field Office

**SIGNATURE AS APPROPRIATE**

Program Leader /s/ Frank Blomquist

Date 06/03/2011

Field Office /s/ John Spehar  
Planning and Environmental Coordinator

Date 06/03/2011

Field Manager /s/ Dennis Carpenter

Date 06/03/2011

Maintenance Sheet Plan Change Number:	
Plan Name: Approved Rawlins Resource Management Plan	Area: Rawlins Field Office, Wyoming
Page: 2-32	Column: N/A
Paragraph: N/A	Line: Management Action #2
Section/Heading: Sand Hills/JO Ranch Area of Critical Environmental Concerns	
<p style="text-align: center;"><b>CHANGE</b></p> <p style="text-align: center;"><i>(Describe exactly what is to be deleted, added, rewritten, etc.)</i></p> <p>Delete: The Sand Hills/JO Ranch (11,937.6 acres) will be managed as an ACEC (Map 2-9c).</p> <p>Insert: The Sand Hills/JO Ranch (12,002 acres) will be managed as an ACEC (Map 2-9c).</p>	
<p style="text-align: center;"><b>REASON</b></p> <p style="text-align: center;"><i>(Describe exact rationale for above change to include reference material, i.e. EA, EIS, IM, etc.)</i></p> <p>The boundary has been modified from the boundary illustrated in the 2008 Approved Rawlins Resource Management Plan (RMP) resulting in an increase of 64.4 acres. The original acreage was 11,937.6 acres. This maintenance action increases the acreage to 12,002.0 acres.</p> <p>The original boundary was not accurately reflected. The new boundary follows existing fence lines and legal description for easy identification of the boundaries. Allows ease of boundary identification by users and visitors.</p>	
<p style="text-align: center;">Signatures as Appropriate</p> <div style="display: flex; justify-content: space-between;"> <div style="width: 45%;"> <p>Program Lead: <i>Frank C. Blomquist</i></p> <p>P&amp;EC: <i>Shirley D. Ho</i></p> <p>Field Manager: <i>Ed Carpenter</i></p> </div> <div style="width: 45%;"> <p>Date: <i>07/10/2013</i></p> <p>Date: <i>07.10.2013</i></p> <p>Date: <i>7/10/13</i></p> </div> </div>	



Maintenance Change No. 2-32-3

## MAINTENANCE CHANGE SHEET

<b>PLAN NAME:</b> Record of Decision and Approved Rawlins Resource Management Plan			
<b>AREA:</b> Rawlins Field Office			
<b>LOCATION OF CHANGE</b>			
Page No. 2-32	Paragraph No. 13	Column n/a	Line No. XX-XX
<b>CHANGE</b>			
(Describe exactly what is to be deleted, added, rewritten, etc.)			
Delete: 12,002 acres			
Insert: 11,980 acres			
<b>REASON</b>			
(Describe exact rationale for above change to include reference material, i.e., EA, EIS, IM)			
The Sand Hills/JO Ranch ACEC boundary was incorrectly adjusted in 2013 so the map was updated. It now follows the HUC 10 watershed boundary on the northwest side, and the allotment boundary on the other sides.			
<b>SIGNATURE AS APPROPRIATE</b>			
Program Leader <u>/s/John Sjogren</u>		Date <u>December 3, 2019</u>	
Field Office <u>/s/Susan Foley</u>		Date <u>December 3, 2019</u>	
Planning and Environmental Coordinator			
Field Manager <u>/s/Dennis J. Carpenter</u>		Date <u>December 3, 2019</u>	

10. The unique vegetation complex of the Sand Hills ACEC will be protected from sources of disturbance through intensive management of surface disturbing activities. Case-by-case examination of any proposed surface disturbing and disruptive activity will be made to determine potential adverse effects and appropriate mitigation to minimize those effects.
11. New fence construction will be authorized to BLM standards. Existing fences will be modified to current BLM standards.
12. Management actions resulting in visual elements that diminish the integrity of the JO Ranch setting will be managed in accordance with the Wyoming State Protocol and BMPs (Appendix 5).
13. The 18 acres that include the JO Ranch buildings and a 2-mile transition zone or the visual horizon, whichever is closer, are designated as VRM Class II.
14. The JO Ranch buildings and related facilities will be stabilized to protect the integrity of the site and provide for public health and safety.
15. Develop an interpretive program for the JO Ranch.

### **2.3.12.3 Other Management Areas (Map 2-13; Table 2-7)**

#### **Chain Lakes Wildlife Habitat Management Area**

##### **Management Goals**

1. Manage the unique, fragile, and rare alkaline desert lake system and wildlife habitat values associated with the lake system.
2. Manage pronghorn winter habitat and other wildlife habitat values.
3. Seek the cooperation of owners of adjacent property in management of the habitat.

##### **Management Objectives**

1. Maintain, restore, and protect the unique, fragile, and rare alkaline desert lake system.
2. Maintain, restore, and protect habitat for pronghorn and other wildlife.
3. Identify components of the unique, fragile, and rare alkaline desert lake system.
4. Implement the Chain Lakes Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with Wyoming Game and Fish Department (WGFD).
5. Utilize inventory and monitoring data to support the goals of the WHMA.

##### **Management Actions**

1. The Chain Lakes area (30,560 acres) will be managed as a WHMA (Map 2-13a).
2. Public lands are open to locatable mineral entry and open to operation of public land laws, including sale.
3. Public lands are open to mineral materials disposals.
4. The area is open to oil and gas leasing with intensive management of surface disturbing and disruptive activities.
5. AMR for wildland fire on public lands within the checkerboard or other intermixed landownership areas will be managed in association with the private and state lands therein.

6. Off-road motor vehicle use for “necessary tasks” (as defined in the Glossary) is allowed.
7. Surface disturbing activities within the unique alkaline desert wetland communities will be intensively managed.

## **Cow Butte/Wild Cow Wildlife Habitat Management Area**

### **Management Goals**

1. Manage to protect crucial winter habitat for elk, mule deer, and important habitat for Columbian sharp-tailed grouse.
2. Manage to maintain or enhance the aspen and mountain shrub complexes.

### **Management Objectives**

1. Maintain, restore, and enhance crucial winter habitat for elk and mule deer.
2. Utilize vegetation inventory and monitoring data to support management for improved seral stage and class structure.
3. Utilize an integrated management approach (e.g., mechanical, chemical, biological, and prescribed fire) to enhance vegetation communities to achieve objectives of the area.

### **Management Actions**

1. The Cow Butte/Wild Cow area (49,570 acres) will be managed as a WHMA (Map 2-13b).
2. Surface disturbing and disruptive activities will be intensively managed on a case-by-case basis to prevent loss of significant habitat or loss of habitat effectiveness. Development, uses, and facilities will be located to minimize damage to vegetation and wildlife habitat.
3. The area is designated an AMR fire suppression area.
4. Surface disturbing and disruptive activities in aspen communities will be avoided. Aspen stands will be managed to increase distribution and improve seral structure.
5. Surface disturbing and disruptive activities in mountain shrub communities will be avoided. Mountain shrub communities will be managed to increase distribution and improve seral structure.
6. New fence construction will be authorized to BLM standards. Existing fences will be modified to current BLM standards.
7. The area is closed to new oil and gas leasing. Surface disturbing and disruptive activities on existing leases will be intensively managed.
8. Public lands are open to the operation of the public land laws.
9. Public lands are open to locatable mineral entry.
10. Lands will be managed in accordance with 43 CFR 3809.11, *When do I have to submit a plan of operations?* Plans of operation are required for locatable mineral exploration and development (except casual use) for disturbances of 5 acres or more.
11. Public lands are closed to mineral material disposals.

12. Motorized vehicle use is limited to designated roads and vehicle routes. Closures of specific roads and vehicle routes, including seasonal closures, will be considered on a case-by-case basis to meet the objectives of the WHMA.
13. Off-road motor vehicle use for “necessary tasks” (as defined in the Glossary) is allowed.

## **High Savery Dam and Reservoir Site**

### **Management Goals**

1. Manage to protect the High Savery Dam and Reservoir site.
2. Manage to support development of a fishery for CRCT.
3. Manage the area for recreation purposes.

### **Management Objectives**

1. Implement an MOU with the appropriate state or local agency having jurisdiction or ownership of state lands and pursue opportunities for partnership and cooperative management with adjacent property owners.
2. Maintain and enhance riparian and upland habitat to sustain fisheries values, with emphasis on CRCT.
3. Maintain or enhance recreational opportunities and benefits.

### **Management Actions**

1. The High Savery Dam and Reservoir area (530 acres; Map 2-13c) will be managed jointly with Wyoming Water Development Commission (WWDC) according to the MOU dated June 2, 2003 (Appendix 23).
2. The area will be cooperatively managed for recreational and multiple-use objectives and irrigation water, consistent with the June 2003 MOU between WWDC and BLM (Appendix 23). The area is open to mineral leasing with an NSO stipulation.
3. For public safety and protection of structures and facilities, public access is closed to vehicular travel. Public access is restricted to foot travel only.
4. The WWDC will be responsible for water, wetland, and riparian management on the subject public lands, as required by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (COE) Section 404 permit for the High Savery Dam and Reservoir Project. Management of these resources will be coordinated with the BLM.
5. The High Savery allotment is open to livestock grazing to meet vegetation management goals and the objectives for the High Savery Dam and Reservoir Project area. Grazing use will be authorized on a temporary, nonrenewable basis.
6. Public lands are closed to locatable mineral entry. Withdrawals will be pursued.
7. The area is closed to mineral material disposals.
8. Public lands are open to operation of public land laws, including sale, where consistent with the intent and purpose of the MOU.

## **Jep Canyon Wildlife Habitat Management Area**

### **Management Goals**

1. Manage the resources in the Jep Canyon Wildlife Habitat Management Area (WHMA) to protect crucial winter habitat for elk and nesting habitat for raptors.
2. Seek the cooperation of owners of adjacent property in management of the habitat.

### **Management Objectives**

1. Maintain, restore, and enhance crucial winter habitat for elk.
2. Maintain, restore, and enhance raptor nesting habitat and the productivity of nesting raptor pairs.
3. Pursue opportunities for partnership and cooperative management with adjacent property owners.

### **Management Actions**

1. The Jep Canyon area (13,810 acres) will be managed as a WHMA (Map 2-13d).
2. Surface disturbing and disruptive activities will be intensively managed to prevent loss of significant habitat. Management will be applied on a case-by-case basis. Developments, uses, and facilities will be managed to avoid damage to vegetation and wildlife habitat.
3. The area is open to oil and gas leasing. Surface disturbing activities on oil and gas leases will be intensively managed to meet the objectives of the WHMA.
4. Public lands are open to locatable mineral entry. Plans of operations are required for locatable mineral exploration and development (except casual use), for surface disturbance of 5 acres or more.
5. Public lands are open to mineral material disposal.
6. As opportunities arise, acquisition of adjacent lands or easements to improve public access will be considered and evaluated (Appendix 6).
7. Off-road motor vehicle use for “necessary tasks” (as defined in the Glossary) is allowed.
8. OHV use is limited to designated roads and vehicle routes and closed to over-the-snow vehicles.
9. Surface disturbing and disruptive activities in aspen communities will be avoided. Aspen stands will be managed to increase distribution and improve seral structure.
10. Public lands within the checkerboard or other intermixed landownership areas will be managed in association with the private and state lands therein. AMR will most often result in suppression activities.

## **Laramie Peak Wildlife Habitat Management Area**

### **Management Goals**

1. Manage the resources in the Laramie Peak WHMA to protect habitat for bighorn sheep, elk, and mule deer.
2. Seek the cooperation of owners of adjacent property in management of the habitat.

### **Management Objectives**

1. Maintain, restore, or enhance crucial winter habitat for bighorn sheep, elk, and mule deer and seasonal habitats for bighorn sheep.
2. Utilize inventory and monitoring data to support vegetation management.
3. Utilize an integrated management approach (e.g., mechanical, chemical, biological, and prescribed fire) to enhance vegetation communities to achieve objectives of the area.
4. Implement the Laramie Peak Bighorn Sheep Habitat Management Plan.

### **Management Actions**

1. The Laramie Peak area (18,940 acres) will be managed as a WHMA (Map 2-13e).
2. Management of domestic sheep and goats will be in accordance with national policy and consider the recommendations of the Wyoming Bighorn/Domestic Sheep Interaction Working Group. Domestic sheep avoidance areas are shown on Map 2-3.
3. The area is open to oil and gas leasing with intensive management of surface disturbing and disruptive activities. Plans of operations are required for locatable mineral exploration and development (except casual use) for disturbances of 5 acres or more.
4. Public lands are open to locatable mineral entry.
5. Public lands within the area are open to mineral material disposals.
6. Actively pursue land tenure adjustments, including acquisition of lands, easements, or exchange, to meet the management objective of the WHMA (Appendix 6).
7. AMR on the public lands within the intermixed landownership areas will be managed in association with the private and state lands therein.
8. Off-road motor vehicle use for “necessary tasks” (as defined in the Glossary) will not be allowed. Exceptions will be considered on a case-by-case basis.
9. OHV use is limited to designated roads and vehicle routes.

## **Laramie Plains Lakes Wildlife Habitat Management Area**

### **Management Goals**

1. Manage potential habitat for the endangered Wyoming toad.
2. Seek the cooperation of owners of adjacent property in management of the habitat.

### **Management Objectives**

1. Maintain, restore, or protect potential habitat for the endangered Wyoming toad.
2. Pursue opportunities for partnership and cooperative management with adjacent property owners.
3. Utilize inventory and monitoring data to support habitat management.

### **Management Actions**

1. The Laramie Plains Lakes area (1,600 acres) will be managed as a WHMA (Map 2-13f).
2. Public lands are open to land tenure adjustments, including sale.

3. Actively pursue acquisition of lands or easements to enhance access to public lands and/or expand habitat to meet the objectives of the management area (Appendix 6).
4. Public lands are closed to locatable mineral entry. Withdrawals from locatable mineral entry will be pursued.
5. Public lands are closed to mineral material disposals.
6. The area is open to oil and gas leasing with an NSO stipulation. Existing oil and gas leases will be intensively managed.
7. The area is designated an AMR fire suppression area.
8. Off-road motor vehicle use for “necessary tasks” (as defined in the Glossary) will not be allowed. Exceptions will be considered on a case-by-case basis.
9. Livestock grazing use will be managed to meet multiple-use objectives.

## **Pennock Mountain Wildlife Habitat Management Area**

### **Management Goals**

1. Manage the resources in the Pennock Mountain WHMA to protect crucial winter habitat for elk and mule deer.
2. Seek the cooperation of owners of adjacent property in management of the habitat.

### **Management Objectives**

1. Maintain, restore, and enhance crucial winter habitat for elk and mule deer.
2. Implement the MOU with WGFD.
3. Utilize inventory and monitoring data to support habitat management.
4. Utilize an integrated management approach (e.g., mechanical, chemical, biological, prescribed fire, wildlife, and livestock grazing) to enhance vegetation communities to achieve objectives of the area.

### **Management Actions**

1. The Pennock Mountain area (7,770 acres) will be managed as a WHMA (Map 2-13g).
2. The Pennock Mountain WHMA is closed to motorized vehicle use, including over-the-snow vehicles, from November 15 to April 30.
3. Actively pursue land tenure adjustments including acquisition of lands, easements, or exchange, to meet multiple-use management objectives (Appendix 6).
4. Public lands are open to locatable mineral entry.
5. Public lands are open to mineral material disposals.
6. Off-road motor vehicle use for “necessary tasks” (as defined in the Glossary) is allowed.

## **Red Rim-Daley Wildlife Habitat Management Area**

### **Management Goals**

1. Manage the resources in the Red Rim-Daley WHMA to protect crucial winter habitat for pronghorn and nesting habitat for raptors.
2. Seek the cooperation of owners of adjacent property in management of the habitat.

### **Management Objectives**

1. Maintain, restore, and enhance crucial winter habitat for pronghorn.
2. Maintain, restore, and enhance nesting raptor habitat and the productivity of nesting raptor pairs.
3. Implement the MOU with WGFD.
4. Utilize inventory and monitoring data to support habitat management.
5. Utilize an integrated management approach (e.g., mechanical, chemical, biological, prescribed fire, wildlife, and livestock grazing) to enhance vegetation communities to achieve objectives of the area.

### **Management Actions**

1. The Red Rim-Daley area (11,100 acres) will be managed as a WHMA (Map 2-13h).
2. The area is open to oil and gas leasing with intensive management of surface disturbing and disruptive activities.
3. Surface disturbing and disruptive activities will be intensively managed to maintain raptor-nesting habitat.
4. Public lands are open to locatable mineral entry.
5. Plans of operations are required for locatable mineral exploration and development (except casual use) for disturbance of 5 acres or more.
6. Public lands are open to the operation of public land laws.
7. Public lands are open to mineral material disposal.
8. Off-road motor vehicle use for “necessary tasks” (as defined in the Glossary) is allowed.
9. AMR for fire on public lands within the checkerboard or other intermixed landownership areas will be managed in association with the private and state lands therein.

## **Shamrock Hills Raptor Concentration Area**

*(Note: Raptor nest locations are not mapped in the RMP in order to protect these sensitive areas.)*

### **Management Goals**

1. Manage to maintain or improve habitat and protect the concentration of breeding and nesting ferruginous hawk species, as well as other bird species, including the mountain plover, sage sparrow, and greater sage-grouse and crucial winter/year-long range for pronghorn.
2. Seek the cooperation of owners of adjacent property in management of the habitat.



### Management Objectives

1. Maintain, restore, and enhance crucial winter/year-long range for pronghorn.
2. Maintain, restore, and enhance habitat and the productivity of ferruginous hawk species, as well as other bird species, including the mountain plover, sage sparrow, and greater sage-grouse.
3. Pursue opportunities for partnership and cooperative management with adjacent property owners.

### Management Actions

1. The Shamrock Hills area (18,400 acres) will be managed as a raptor concentration area (Map 2-13i) (also see Section 2.3.18).
2. Surface disturbing and disruptive activities will be intensively managed on a case-by-case basis to maintain raptor nesting habitat. Developments, uses, and facilities will be managed to avoid damage to vegetation and wildlife habitat.
3. The area is open to oil and gas leasing with intensive management of surface disturbing and disruptive activities.
4. Public lands are open to locatable mineral entry. Lands will be managed in accordance with 43 CFR 3809.11, *When do I have to submit a plan of operations?* Plans of operations are required for locatable mineral exploration and development (except casual use) for surface disturbance of 5 acres or more.
5. The area is open to mineral material disposals.
6. Off-road motor vehicle use for “necessary tasks” (as defined in the Glossary) is allowed.
7. Public lands within the checkerboard or other intermixed landownership areas will be managed in association with the private and state lands therein. AMR will most often result in suppression activities.

### Stratton Sagebrush Steppe Research Area


#### Management Goal

1. Manage the scientific values in the study area.

#### Management Objective

1. Provide opportunities for cooperative research while protecting the long-term research value.

#### Management Actions

1. The Stratton Sagebrush Steppe area ( ~~5,530~~ acres) will be managed as a research area (Map 2-13j).
2. The area is closed to mineral material disposal.
3. Motorized vehicle use is limited to designated roads and vehicle routes.
4. The area is closed to oil and gas leasing. Surface disturbing activities on existing leases will be intensively managed to meet the objectives of the research area.
5. Livestock grazing will be managed to meet objectives of the research area.
6. The area is designated an AMR fire suppression area to meet the research objectives of the research area.

Maintenance Change No. 40-1

## MAINTENANCE CHANGE SHEET

<b>PLAN NAME:</b> Record of Decision and Approved Rawlins Resource Management Plan			
<b>AREA:</b> Rawlins Field Office			
<b>LOCATION OF CHANGE</b>			
Page No. 2-40	Paragraph No. XX	Column n/a	Line No. XX-XX
<b>CHANGE</b>			
(Describe exactly what is to be deleted, added, rewritten, etc.)			
Delete: Original acreage of 5,530 acres under Management Actions for Stratton Sagebrush Steppe Research Area			
Insert: Insert 4,613 acres			
<b>REASON</b>			
(Describe exact rationale for above change to include reference material, i.e., EA, EIS, IM)			
The boundary was originally marked to follow section lines around the historic study areas and inadvertently included area outside of the watershed, study area, and allotment. The revised boundary and acreage reflects the Middlewood Hill allotment/pasture fence boundaries that encompass the historic study area.			
<b>SIGNATURE AS APPROPRIATE</b>			
Program Leader <u>/s/Michael D. R. Calton</u>		Date <u>October 23, 2019</u>	
Field Office <u>/s/Susan Foley</u>		Date <u>October 23, 2019</u>	
Planning and Environmental Coordinator			
Field Manager <u>/s/Dennis J. Carpenter</u>		Date <u>October 23, 2019</u>	

7. Off-road motor vehicle use for “necessary tasks” (as defined in the Glossary) is not allowed. Exceptions will be considered on a case-by-case basis.

## Upper Muddy Creek Watershed/Grizzly Wildlife Habitat Management Area

### Management Goals

1. Manage habitat for the Colorado River fish species unique to the Muddy Creek watershed.
2. Manage crucial winter habitat for elk and mule deer.
3. Seek the cooperation of owners of adjacent property in management of the habitat.

### Management Objectives

1. Maintain, restore, and enhance crucial winter habitat for elk and mule deer.
2. Maintain, restore, and enhance habitat for the Colorado River fish species unique to the Muddy Creek watershed.
3. Implement an MOU with appropriate state or local agency having jurisdiction or ownership of state lands and pursue opportunities for partnership and cooperative management with adjacent property owners.
4. Utilize inventory and monitoring data to support habitat management.
5. Utilize an integrated management approach (e.g., mechanical, chemical, biological, prescribed fire, wildlife, and livestock grazing) to enhance vegetation communities to achieve objectives of the area.

### Management Actions



41-1

1. The Upper Muddy Creek Watershed/Grizzly area (~~59,720~~ acres) will be managed as a WHMA (Map 2-13k).
2. To protect the Colorado River cutthroat trout reintroduction area, 4,520 acres of public lands and 69,770,000 tons of federal coal are unsuitable for further leasing consideration (based on Coal Development Suitability Report; also see Map A2-4 and Appendix 2). See Section 2.3.7 for additional coal management discussion.
3. Rehabilitation of degraded stream reaches will be carried out in specific problem areas. Livestock grazing use will be managed for the protection or enhancement of resource values for which the WHMA was designated.
4. The area is closed to new oil and gas leasing. Surface disturbing activities on existing leases will be intensively managed.
5. Public lands are open to locatable mineral entry.
6. Lands will be managed in accordance with 43 CFR 3809.11, *When do I have to submit a plan of operations?* Plans of operation are required for locatable mineral exploration and development (except casual use), for disturbances of 5 acres or more.
7. Public lands are closed to mineral material disposals.
8. Public lands are open to the operation of the public land laws.
9. Off-road motor vehicle use for “necessary tasks” (as defined in the Glossary) is allowed.

**MAINTENANCE CHANGE SHEET****PLAN NAME:**    **Rawlins RMP**            **AREA:**    **Rawlins Field Office****LOCATION OF CHANGE**

Page No.    2-41            Heading: Management Actions            Action No. 1

**CHANGE**

(Describe exactly what is to be deleted, added, rewritten, etc.)

Delete: The Upper Muddy Creek Watershed/Grizzly area (59,720 acres) will be managed as a WHMA (Map 2-13k).

Insert: The Upper Muddy Creek Watershed/Grizzly area (59,477 acres) will be managed as a WHMA (Map 2-13k).

**REASON**

(Describe exact rationale for above change to include reference material, i.e., EA, EIS, IM)

The Upper Muddy Creek Watershed/Grizzly Wildlife Habitat Management Area (WHMA) boundary did not match the United States Geological Survey (USGS) designated hydrologic units. The updated boundary follows the USGS hydrologic units, resulting in the removal of small portions of the WHMA that occurred in the North Platte River watershed and the addition of areas in the Muddy Creek watershed that were not aligned properly with the USGS hydrologic units. One of the goals of the WHMA is to "Manage habitat for Colorado River fish species unique to the Muddy Creek watershed". The rational in modifying the boundary area is to meet the watershed management goals of the WHMA and not apply management actions specific to the WHMA outside of the Muddy Creek watershed boundary. The modification of the WHMA boundary changes the acreage within the WHMA. The new acreage of the WHMA is 59,477 acres resulting in a net loss of 243 acres.

Note: Signed version of forms are retained at the Rawlins Field Office

**SIGNATURE AS APPROPRIATE**Program Leader        /s/ Patrick LionbergerDate 12-01-11Field Office            /s/ John P. Spehar  
Planning and Environmental CoordinatorDate 12-01-11Field Manager        /s/ Dennis J. CarpenterDate 12-05-11

10. Motorized vehicle use is limited to designated roads and vehicle routes. Closures of specific roads and vehicle routes, including seasonal closures, will be considered on a case-by-case basis to meet the objectives of Upper Muddy Creek Watershed/Grizzly WHMA.
11. OHV use to retrieve big game kills or access camp sites is prohibited off designated roads and vehicle routes.
12. Surface disturbing activities will avoid identified 100-year floodplains, 500 feet from perennial surface water and/or wetland and riparian areas, and 100 feet from ephemeral channels. Exceptions to this would be granted by the BLM based on an environmental analysis and site-specific engineering and mitigation plans. Only those actions within areas that cannot be avoided and that provide protection for the aquatic resources in the Muddy Upper Muddy Creek Watershed/Grizzly WHMA will be approved.
13. New fence construction will be authorized according to BLM standards. Modification of existing fences to current BLM standards will be actively pursued (Appendix 19). Specific locations will be modified according to wildlife and livestock needs.
14. In-stream structures that interfere with the movement of native fishes among habitats will be removed, reconstructed, or retrofitted to allow fish passage. Barriers built to facilitate reintroduction efforts will be maintained until they have completed their purpose.
15. Actively pursue, in cooperation with WGFD, USFS, and private landowners, opportunities to expand reintroduction efforts for Colorado River Cutthroat Trout (CRCT) and other native cold and warm water fishes into adjacent habitats within the Upper Muddy Creek watershed.
16. Surface disturbing and disruptive activities in aspen communities will be avoided. Aspen stands will be managed to increase distribution and improve seral structure.
17. The area is designated an AMR fire suppression area.
18. Water impoundments in the Upper Muddy Creek Watershed/Grizzly WHMA that would result in storage of greater than 1 acre-foot per project in Muddy Creek will not be allowed.

## **Wick-Beumee Wildlife Habitat Management Area**

### **Management Goals**

1. Manage the resources in the Wick-Beumee WHMA to protect crucial winter habitat for elk and year-round habitat for wildlife.
2. Seek the cooperation of owners of adjacent property in management of the habitat.

### **Management Objectives**

1. Maintain, restore, and enhance crucial winter habitat for elk and year-round habitat for wildlife.
2. Implement the MOU with WGFD.
3. Utilize inventory and monitoring data to support habitat management.
4. Utilize an integrated management approach (e.g., mechanical, chemical, biological, prescribed fire, wildlife, and livestock grazing) to enhance vegetation communities to achieve objectives of the area.

### **Management Actions**

1. The public land within the Wick-Beumee area (280 surface acres) will be managed as a WHMA (Map 2-131).
2. The Wick-Beumee crucial elk winter range is closed to motorized vehicle use, including over-the-snow vehicles, from November 15 to April 30.
3. Public lands are open to operation of the public land laws, including sale.
4. Public lands are open to locatable mineral entry.
5. Public lands are open to mineral material disposals.
6. The area is open to oil and gas leasing with intensive management of surface disturbing and disruptive activities.
7. Off-road motor vehicle use for “necessary tasks” (as defined in the Glossary) is allowed.
8. Surface disturbing and disruptive activities in aspen communities will be intensively managed.

### **2.3.12.4 National Natural Landmarks Management**

#### **Management Goal**

1. Manage to preserve the integrity of NNLs.

#### **Management Objectives**

1. Protect the geological significance of the sites.
2. Maintain, restore, and enhance areas within NNL areas to meet Wyoming Standards for Healthy Rangelands.

#### **Management Actions**

1. Lands totaling 800 acres in the Big Hollow NNL and 160 acres in the Sand Creek NNL will be considered for disposal to individuals, organizations, agencies, or institutions that will manage these areas in accordance with their NNL status (Map 2-18).
2. Manage the NNL areas to meet the Wyoming Standards for Healthy Rangelands.

### **Como Bluff NNL**

#### **Management Goal**

1. Protect the integrity of paleontological resource values, preserve historic significance, and provide opportunity for other uses where appropriate.

#### **Management Objective**

1. Provide for permitted research and protect the historical significance of the site.

#### **Management Actions**

1. The Como Bluff area (1,690 acres) will be managed as an NNL (Map 2-18).

2. Case-by-case examination of any proposed surface disturbing and disruptive activities will be made to determine potential adverse effects and appropriate mitigation will be applied to minimize those effects.
3. The Como Bluff NNL is open to oil and gas leasing with intensive management of surface disturbing and disruptive activities within one-quarter mile of exposures of the Morrison Formation.
4. Lands will be managed in accordance with 43 CFR 3809.11, *When do I have to submit a plan of operations?* Plans of operations are required for locatable mineral exploration and development (except casual use) for surface disturbances of 5 acres or more.
5. The area is open to mineral material disposals.
6. As opportunities arise, acquisition of adjacent lands or easements to obtain public access will be considered and evaluated (Appendix 6).
7. Off-road motor vehicle use for “necessary tasks” (as defined in the Glossary) is allowed.

### **2.3.12.5 Wild and Scenic Rivers**

#### **Management Goal**

1. Manage to protect and enhance the outstandingly remarkable values that contribute to the inclusion of river segments in the National Wild and Scenic River System.

#### **Management Objectives**

1. Protect the outstandingly remarkable values of river segments that have been determined to be eligible or suitable.
2. Provide river-related outdoor recreation opportunities in a primitive setting.
3. Maintain, restore, and enhance areas within Wild and Scenic River areas to meet Wyoming Standards for Healthy Rangelands.

#### **Management Actions**

1. Manage Wild and Scenic Rivers (Map 2-19) to meet the Wyoming Standards for Healthy Rangelands.
2. BLM will determine and manage the Encampment River segment (2.51 miles; Map 2-19) as suitable for inclusion in the National Wild and Scenic River System with the tentative classification of Wild.

Management prescriptions applied within one-quarter mile of the high-water line on each side of the Encampment River eligible river segment tentatively will include—

- a. Closed to OHV
- b. Closed to oil and gas leasing
- c. Closed to locatable mineral entry and operation of public land laws, including sale; withdrawals will be pursued
- d. Temporary cultural and paleontological activities are allowed

- e. Closed to recreational dredging and to surface disturbing and disruptive activities, such as major recreational developments and ROWs; some minor recreational developments, such as hiking trail and signs, are allowed
- f. Closed to development of water impoundments, diversions, or hydroelectric power facilities
- g. Closed to commercial timber harvest
- h. Range improvements are allowed within the guidelines of BLM Manual 8351, with the exception of increases in grazing preference
- i. Managed as VRM Class I
- j. Designated as an AMR fire suppression area
- k. Surface disturbing activities will not be allowed within one-quarter mile of the high-water line on each side of the eligible river segment
- l. Geophysical exploration is limited to foot access and the use of surfaced cables on public lands; surface charges may be allowed following site-specific analysis
- m. Vegetation treatments are restricted to hand or aerial application.

### 2.3.13 Transportation and Access Management

#### Management Goal

1. Develop and maintain a transportation management system to accommodate public demand for legal access through and across public land and to meet resource management needs and objectives (e.g., wildlife objectives). *(Note: OHV access and Recreation are addressed under Sections 2.3.8 and 2.3.10, respectively.)*

#### Management Objectives

1. Maintain or expand, as determined necessary, existing access, including the right of access by a non-federal-land in-holder.
2. Abandon or close redundant or unnecessary access roads; reclaim after consultation with local government and interested parties.
3. Conduct transportation planning to manage existing and new access in a manner that ensures compatibility with resource values and management objectives.
4. Incorporate existing state and county road systems into BLM transportation system to accurately show existing access. Coordinate access issues with state and local governments.

#### Management Actions

1. The public land transportation system will be maintained or modified to provide for public health and safety and adequate access to public lands.
2. Routing and construction standards will be adjusted based on route analysis and engineering design.
3. When roads constructed under other initiatives are no longer needed for their original purposes, and prior to termination and obliteration of the road, BLM will assess its utility for addition to the BLM transportation system.



4. In close coordination with state and county governments, inventory all roads on public land and determine which roads are owned by the state and the respective counties. Based on the inventory and road determinations, develop a transportation plan to identify roads or trails under the jurisdiction of the BLM for closure, modification, or maintenance within the life of the plan. The plan will include goals, objectives, and maintenance standards for roads or trails to be retained for public use, and will contain specific measures to accomplish road closure. Roads or trails that are eroding beyond a reasonable level will be fixed or closed.
5. Manage transportation and access to meet the Wyoming Standards for Healthy Rangelands.
6. Consistent with Wyoming BLM access policy, opportunities to acquire or maintain legal access to the areas listed in Table 2-8 (in order of priority) will be pursued. Additional access needs will be identified on a case-by-case basis.
7. Consolidation of public lands will be pursued, when opportunities arise, to meet recreational demand (Table 2-8). The criteria for which lands will be acquired include in-holdings within WSAs, some SD/MAs, and HMAs (Appendix 6).
8. Road density will be considered during the analysis process and during authorization of surface disturbing and disruptive activities (Appendix 26).

## **2.3.14 Vegetation**

### **Management Goals**

1. Manage vegetation to achieve and maintain proper ecosystem function.
2. Manage vegetation communities to restore, maintain, or enhance vegetation community health, composition, and diversity to benefit multiple resources and their uses, consistent with site potential.
3. Manage to protect, preserve, or enhance Special Status Plant Species (T&E and BLM State Sensitive plant species) and unique plant communities.
4. Manage to control noxious and invasive species.
5. Manage aspen communities for a healthy mix of successional stages within a natural range of variation.

### **Management Objectives**

1. Maintain, restore, and enhance vegetation communities to facilitate a healthy mix of successional stages (identified in activity plans) that incorporate age class, structure, and species composition into each vegetation type, consistent with site potential.
2. Control the introduction and proliferation of noxious and invasive species and reduce established populations to acceptable levels determined through cooperation, consultation, and coordination with local, state, other federal plans, policies, and agency agreements.
3. Maintain, restore, and enhance the health and diversity of plant communities through the use of management prescriptions (such as prescribed natural fire, burning, plantings, seedings, and chemical, mechanical, biological, and grazing treatments or other treatments) in coordination with local, state, and federal management plans and policies.
4. Maintain, restore, and enhance riparian, wetland, and upland vegetation to meet the Wyoming Standards for Healthy Rangelands.

5. Maintain, restore, and enhance aspen communities (Appendix 19).
6. Maintain, restore, and enhance Special Status Plant Species (T&E and BLM State Sensitive plant species) and unique plant communities.
7. Utilize inventory and monitoring data to support vegetation management.
8. Maintain connectivity between large contiguous blocks of federal land by minimizing fragmentation of vegetative communities.

### **Management Actions**

1. Forage allocation on acquired lands will be consistent with the purpose of the acquisition and multiple-use objectives for the area.
2. All forms of control for noxious and invasive species are allowed in the RMPPA on a case-by-case basis (Appendix 19).
3. Minimize disturbance to vegetation through application of BMPs, mitigation, as appropriate and practical (Appendices 13, 14, 15, and 19), and reclamation practices (Appendix 36).
4. Manage riparian, wetland, and upland vegetation to meet the Wyoming Standards for Healthy Rangelands.

### **Special Status Plant Species and Habitat**

1. Populations of Special Status Species will be fenced to protect them from grazing, trailing, or other disturbance where needed. Known populations of Special Status Plant Species are closed to locatable mineral entry and operation of the public land laws, including sale. Withdrawals will be pursued.
2. Known habitat for BLM Wyoming State Sensitive plant species is open to oil and gas leasing with intensive management of surface disturbing and disruptive activities.
3. The fenced Gibben's beardtongue (*Penstemon gibbensii*) site (approximately 15 acres) will be maintained to protect the population from disturbance.
4. In unique plant communities (Map 3-10a), such as the Muddy Gap Cushion Plant Community area, notices will be required for locatable mineral exploration and development (except casual use) consistent with regulations. Intensive management actions will be taken to protect the unique plant communities where necessary. Unique plant communities are closed to mineral material disposals.
5. T&E, candidate, and proposed species and habitat conservation measures identified in the biological assessment (USDI, BLM 2007a) will be adhered to for compliance with the ESA (Appendix 14). These measures will be applied to all surface disturbing activities, as appropriate, to ensure compliance with Section 9 of the ESA. In addition, conservation measures and reasonable and prudent measures and terms and conditions identified in any biological assessment and opinion will be implemented within the RMPPA.
6. Management practices identified on a case-by-case basis will be applied to surface disturbing activities to maintain or enhance Special Status Plant Species and their habitat (Appendix 24).
7. Occupied habitat for T&E and proposed and candidate species is open to oil and gas leasing with an NSO stipulation.
8. Surface disturbing activities will be intensively managed in areas that contain habitat for the blowout penstemon to maintain or enhance habitat for the plant.

9. Occupied habitat for the blowout penstemon plant is closed to mineral material disposals.
10. BLM-administered public lands that contain occupied habitat for the blowout penstemon plant will not be exchanged or sold.
11. Off-road vehicle travel for “necessary tasks” (as defined in the Glossary) in occupied habitat for the blowout penstemon plant will not be allowed in order to protect the plant. Exceptions may be authorized on a case-by-case basis following environmental assessment.
12. Off-road travel to access camping sites is prohibited.
13. Off-road travel to retrieve big game kills is prohibited.
14. BLM-administered public lands that contain occupied/designated habitat for the Colorado butterfly plant will not be exchanged or sold.
15. Recreational site development will not be authorized in occupied/designated Colorado butterfly plant habitat.
16. BLM-administered public lands that contain occupied habitat for the Ute ladies’-tresses plant will not be exchanged or sold.
17. Recreational site development will not be authorized in occupied Ute ladies’-tresses plant habitat.

#### ***Rangeland Desired Plant Community***

1. Vegetation treatments (mechanical, biological, chemical, and prescribed fire) will be applied to meet standards for rangeland health and watershed function and to achieve DPC while considering habitat for wildlife, including Special Status Species.
2. Rangeland areas will be managed to achieve DPC (Appendix 8).
3. Priority for control of noxious and invasive species is to reduce and eliminate, where possible, small new infestations and to control large infestations.

### **2.3.15 Visual Resource Management**

#### **Management Goal**

1. Manage public lands according to VRM classes that are determined based on land use allocation decisions made in this RMP.

#### **Management Objectives**

1. Establish VRM classes for the RMPPA.
2. Maintain the overall integrity of visual resource classes while allowing for development of existing and future uses.

#### **Management Actions**

1. Manage visual resources to meet the Wyoming Standards for Healthy Rangelands.
2. VRM classes are designated as shown on Map 2-50 (Table 2-9 and Appendix 25).

## **2.3.16 Water Quality, Watershed, and Soils Management**

### **Management Goals**

1. Maintain or improve surface and groundwater quantity and quality consistent with applicable state and federal standards and regulations.
2. Control or remediate sources and causes of pollution on federal lands in cooperation with other federal, local, and state agencies and private entities.
3. Maintain or reestablish proper watershed, wetland, aquifer, riparian, and stream functions to support natural or desired surface flow regimes that meet state water quality standards.
4. Minimize or control contributions of nonpoint source pollution from federal lands to all receiving waters (Appendices 11 and 13).
5. Minimize or control elevated levels of salt contribution from federal lands to the Colorado River system, consistent with WDEQ water quality regulations.
6. Provide for availability of water to support uses authorized on federal lands where appropriate.

### **Management Objectives**

1. Maintain or improve water quality by managing surface land use and groundwater resources, where practical and within the scope of the BLM's authority, according to the State of Wyoming Water Quality Rules and Regulations (Appendix 11).
2. Maintain the hydrologic and water quality conditions needed to support riparian/wetland areas; minimize flood and sediment damage to water resources from human and natural causes; analyze and, where possible, minimize levels of salt loading in watersheds; and protect water resources used by the public (including impoundments, reservoirs, pipelines, and irrigation ditches) and by federal, state, and local agencies for fisheries, wildlife, livestock, agricultural, recreational, municipal, and industrial uses.
3. Address all accidental spills of environmental pollutants on federal lands according to Appendix 32.
4. Implement intensive management of surface disturbing activities (Appendix 13) in watersheds contributing to waterbodies listed on the Wyoming 303d list of waterbodies with water quality impairments or threats, within the BLM's authority.
5. Maintain or improve wetland/riparian areas as required by the Wyoming Standards for Healthy Rangelands (USDI, BLM 1997).
6. Activities that would cause a water depletion within the Colorado River system or North Platte River system will comply with existing agreements, decrees, rules, and regulations (Appendix 11).

### **Management Actions**

1. Intensive management of surface disturbing activities will be implemented in watersheds contributing to waterbodies listed on the State's 303d list of impaired waterbodies in consultation and cooperation with affected interests.
2. Rehabilitate or reclaim reservoirs and other water sources within BLM's authority that are functionally compromised and provide new water sources designed in support of resource

management goals. Coordinate with local entities during planning and implementation of water source improvements when appropriate.

3. Manage water and soil resources to meet the Wyoming Standards for Healthy Rangelands.
4. Surface disturbing activities will be avoided on unstable areas, such as landslides, slopes of greater than 25 percent, slumps, and areas exhibiting soil creep. Reclamation practices and BMPs will be applied as appropriate for surface disturbing activities (Appendix 13).
5. Surface disturbing activities will be avoided in the following areas: (1) identified 100-year floodplains, (2) areas within 500 feet of perennial waters, springs, and wetland and riparian areas, and (3) areas within 100 feet of the inner gorge of ephemeral channels. Exceptions to this will be granted by the BLM based on an environmental analysis and site-specific engineering and mitigation plans. Only those actions within areas that cannot be avoided and that provide protection for the resource identified will be approved.

***Muddy Creek Watershed (U.S. Geological Survey Hydrologic Unit Code 14050004)***

1. Surface disturbing activities will be intensively managed within those portions of the Muddy Creek drainage that contribute to degradation of reaches previously or currently listed on the 303d list (Map 2-20 and Appendix 11).
2. Water impoundments in the Upper Muddy Creek Watershed/Grizzly SD/MA that would result in storage of greater than 1 acre-foot per project in Muddy Creek will not be allowed.

***Encampment River Watershed (U.S. Geological Survey Hydrologic Unit Code 1018000205)***

1. The Encampment River watershed (USGS HUC 1018000205) will be protected for municipal drinking water sources, wild and scenic values, and recreation. Surface disturbing activities such as new roads and facilities as well as grazing management and forest management actions will be intensively managed to meet watershed objectives (Map 2-20).

***Sage Creek Watershed (U.S. Geological Survey Hydrologic Unit Code 101800209)***

1. Surface disturbing activities, vegetation treatments, and grazing management actions will be intensively managed within those portions of Sage Creek drainage that contribute to its listing on the 303d list (Map 2-20 and Appendix 11).

***Water Quality for Class 1 Waters and Waters with Threats or Impairments***

1. Manage surface land use and groundwater resources within its jurisdiction to maintain or improve water quality according to the uses and numerical standards specified by the State of Wyoming's classification of water resources in the RFO. Proposed projects above Class 1 waters and impaired bodies on the State's 303d list will receive special consideration during the NEPA process to ensure that project actions will not degrade these waterbodies beyond the uses specified. Intensive management of surface disturbing activities approved by the BLM will be implemented in watersheds contributing to waterbodies listed on the State's 303d list.

***Produced Water from Fluid Mineral Development***

1. Surface discharge of produced water that meets Wyoming surface water standards is allowed in the Colorado River Basin, Great Divide Basin, and North Platte River Basin. Individual projects will be considered on a site-specific basis.

## 2.3.17 Wild Horses

### Management Goals

1. Manage to protect, maintain, and control viable, healthy herds of wild horses while retaining their free-roaming nature, provide adequate habitat for free-roaming wild horses while maintaining the multiple-use relationships and thriving natural ecological balance, and provide opportunities for public viewing of wild horses (Appendix 12).
2. Manage to preserve and maintain existing genotypes.

### Management Objectives

1. Maintain wild horse populations within the appropriate management levels (AML) of the HMA.
2. Manage wild horses to meet the Wyoming Standards for Healthy Rangelands.
3. Identify existing genotypes and phenotypes through recognized means of genetic evaluation and maintain genetic integrity.
4. Maintain the health of wild horse herds at a level that prevents adverse affects to domestic horse populations.
5. Maintain habitat for existing AMLs.
6. Conduct all activities in compliance with relevant court orders and agreements, including the Consent Decree (August 2003).

### Management Actions

1. Conduct regular, periodic gathers when necessary to maintain AMLs.
2. Utilize monitoring and evaluation data to maintain habitat within HMAs.
3. Conduct animal health monitoring.
4. Employ selective removal criteria during periodic gathers to increase the recognized occurrence of the New World Iberian genotype and associated phenotype above current levels.
5. The AML for the Adobe Town HMA will remain at 700 adults; the AML for the Stewart Creek HMA will remain at 150 adults. These AMLs could change based on future monitoring (**Map 2-21 and** Appendix 12).
6. Manage wild horses to meet the Wyoming Standards for Healthy Rangelands.
7. Utilizing accepted means of genetic testing and analysis, in cooperation with the Lander and Rock Springs Field Offices, the total extent of the New World Iberian genotype within the metapopulation that includes the Lost Creek HMA (current AML of 70 adults) will be documented. Management practices will be implemented to accomplish the goal of preserving the New World Iberian genotype (**Map 2-21**).
8. Identify and designate the total extent of the metapopulation that includes the Lost Creek HMA.

**MAINTENANCE CHANGE SHEET**

<b>PLAN NAME:</b>	<b>Rawlins RMP</b>	<b>AREA:</b>	<b>Rawlins Field Office</b>
<b>LOCATION OF CHANGE</b>			
Page No. 51	Paragraph No. Management Actions # 5 and 7	Line No. end	
<b>CHANGE</b> (Describe exactly what is to be deleted, added, rewritten, etc.)  Delete: N/A  Insert: Add a reference to Map 2-21 Wild Horse Herd Management Areas, as follows:  #5. ..based on future monitoring (Map 2-21 and Appendix 12).  #7. ..preserving the New World Iberian Genotype (Map 2-21).			
<b>REASON</b> (Describe exact rationale for above change to include reference material, i.e., EA, EIS, IM)  The Record of Decision and Approved Rawlins Resource Management Plan did not contain Map 2-21 Wild Horse Herd Management Areas or a reference to the map in Section 2.3.17 Wild Horse decisions.  Note: Signed version of forms are retained at the Rawlins Field Office			
<b>SIGNATURE AS APPROPRIATE</b>			
Program Leader <u>/s/ Melanie Mirati</u>		Date <u>11/22/2010</u>	
Field Office <u>/s/ John Spehar</u> Planning and Environmental Coordinator		Date <u>10/19/2010</u>	
Field Manager <u>/s/ Dennis Carpenter</u>		Date <u>11/22/2010</u>	

## 2.3.18 Wildlife and Fisheries

### Management Goals

1. Manage for the biological integrity and habitat function of terrestrial and aquatic ecosystems to sustain and optimize distribution and abundance of all native, desirable non-native, and Special Status fish and wildlife species.
2. Manage or restore habitat to conserve, recover, and maintain populations of native, desirable non-native, and Special Status Species (e.g., BLM State Sensitive Species, WGFD Species of Greatest Conservation Need, Native Species Status (NSS) 1-2 species, USFWS listed/proposed/candidate species) consistent with appropriate local, state, and federal management plans and policies.
3. Manage for quality habitat to support the introduction, reestablishment, augmentation, transplant, stocking, and expansion of identified high-priority fish and wildlife species, in consultation and coordination with appropriate local, state, and federal agencies and adjacent landowners.
4. Manage wildlife and fish habitat to support recreational and educational benefits and opportunities for the public.

### Management Objectives

1. Maintain, restore, or enhance wildlife habitat in coordination and consultation with other local, state, and federal agencies and consistent with other agency plans, policies, and agreements. A full range of mitigation options will be considered when developing mitigation for project-level activities for wildlife and Special Status Species habitats.
2. Maintain, restore, or enhance T&E species habitat, in coordination and consultation with the USFWS and other local, state, and federal agencies and consistent with other agency plans, policies, and agreements.
3. Maintain, restore, or enhance designated BLM State Sensitive Species habitat to prevent listing under the ESA, in coordination and consultation with other local, state, and federal agencies and consistent with other agency plans, policies, and agreements.
4. Maintain, restore, or enhance habitat function in crucial winter range.

### Management Actions

#### General Wildlife

*(Note: See Table 2-10 for seasonal restrictions for wildlife on surface disturbing and disruptive activities.)*

1. BLM will work cooperatively with other agencies and affected landowners for the introduction, transplant, reestablishment, augmentation, and/or stocking of wildlife and fish species.
2. Surface disturbing and disruptive activities will be intensively managed in all raptor concentration areas (RCA) to reduce physical disturbance of raptor habitat and disturbance to the birds. This will entail a case-by-case examination of proposals.
3. Surface disturbing and disruptive activities located in potential mountain plover habitat are prohibited during the reproductive period of April 10 to July 10 for the protection of breeding and nesting mountain plover. Additional protection measures will be applied if this area is later determined to be within occupied habitat (Appendix 16). Occupied habitat is defined as areas where broods and adults have been found.



4. Wildlife habitat objectives will be considered in all reclamation activity.
5. Manage projects through facility placement and minimization of construction disturbance to maintain connectivity between large contiguous blocks of undisturbed habitat.
6. Manage wildlife and fisheries habitat to meet the Wyoming Standards for Healthy Rangelands.
7. Priority will be given to achieving the DPC in addition to meeting the Wyoming Standards for Healthy Rangelands (Appendices 8 and 19).
8. As proposals are submitted, animal damage control activities in the RMPPA, including the use of lethal poisons, will be considered. These activities are subject to established policies, including NEPA requirements. These activities are also subject to the RFO Annual Predator Damage Management Plan, which is maintained current and consistent with those procedures and policies.
9. Surface disturbing and disruptive activities potentially disruptive to nesting raptors are prohibited within the following distances during the following time periods:
  - 1-mile buffer: Golden eagle, ferruginous hawk
  - Three-quarter-mile buffer: All others
  - February 1–July 15: Golden eagle, barn owl, red-tailed hawk, great-horned owl, other raptors
  - April 1–July 31: Osprey, merlin, sharp-shinned hawk, kestrel, prairie falcon, northern harrier, Swainson’s hawk, Cooper’s hawk
  - March 1–July 31: Short-eared owl, long-eared owl, ferruginous hawk, peregrine falcon, screech owl
  - April 15–September 15: Burrowing owl
  - April 1–August 31: Goshawk
10. Well locations, roads, ancillary facilities, and other surface structures requiring a repeated human presence will not be allowed within 825 feet of active raptor nests (ferruginous hawks, 1,200 feet). Distance may vary depending on factors such as nest activity, species, natural topographic barriers, and line-of-sight distances.
11. RCAs are open to oil and gas leasing (raptor nest locations are not mapped in the RMP to protect these sensitive areas). Surface disturbing and disruptive activities will be intensively managed through the use of appropriate BMPs (Appendices 14 and 15).
12. Important waterfowl production areas, as they are identified, will be managed for DPC of aquatic habitat and associated wetlands.
13. Surface disturbing activities and disruptive activities will be intensively managed. BMPs (Appendix 14 and 15) will be applied to surface disturbing and disruptive activities to maintain or enhance upland game bird species, neotropical and other migratory bird species, and their habitats.
14. Surface disturbing and disruptive activities within big game crucial winter range will not be allowed during the period of November 15 to April 30 (Maps 2-53, 2-54, and 2-55).
15. Disruptive activities within big game crucial winter range will require the use of BMPs designed to reduce the amount of human presence and activity during the winter months (Appendix 15).
16. Surface disturbing and disruptive activities within identified big game parturition areas will not be allowed during the period of May 1 to June 30 (Maps 2-55 and 2-56).

17. Surface disturbing and disruptive activities will be managed, on a case-by-case basis, in identified big game migration and transitional ranges to maintain their integrity and function for big game species in these areas.
18. Fences identified to be a problem to big game migration will be modified to meet BLM fence standards. New fences are allowed in big game migration corridors, provided they meet BLM fence standards.
19. Water developments for livestock and wild horse use are allowed in crucial winter range when they are consistent with wildlife habitat needs.
20. Surface disturbing and disruptive activities will be intensively managed (BMPs) (Appendices 14 and 15) to maintain or enhance reptile and amphibian species and their habitats.
21. For the protection of amphibian species and their habitats, surface disturbing and disruptive activities will be avoided in the following areas: (1) identified 100-year floodplains, (2) areas within 500 feet of perennial waters, springs, wells, and wetlands, and (3) areas within 100 feet of the inner gorge of ephemeral channels.
22. Fish habitats will be managed to achieve desired future condition (DFC).
23. Impoundments and instream structures will be designed to minimize impacts on Special Status fish species and their habitats.
24. Road crossings of waterbodies that potentially support fish for a portion of the year will be designed to simulate natural stream processes.

#### ***Endangered, Threatened, Proposed, and Candidate Species***

1. Informal conferencing and consultation with the USFWS will occur for authorized activities that would potentially affect the habitat for endangered, threatened, proposed, and candidate species within the RMPPA (Appendix 10).
2. Habitat and species conservation measures for threatened, endangered, candidate, and proposed species are identified in the biological assessment (USDI, BLM 2007a) and the biological opinion (USDI, BLM 2007b). Both documents will be adhered to for compliance with the ESA and the BLM Wyoming State Director's Sensitive Species List (BLM Manual 6840). Conservation measures will be applied to all surface disturbing and disruptive activities, as appropriate. Appendix 14 lists all reasonable and prudent measures and terms and conditions for threatened and endangered species and conservation measures for proposed and candidate species.
3. If prairie dog towns/complexes suitable as black-footed ferret habitat are present, attempts will be made to avoid locating surface disturbing activities within 164 feet (50 meters) of a town. If a black-footed ferret non-block cleared town/complex cannot be avoided, then a black-footed ferret survey is required (Appendix 14).
4. Boat and raft landing areas will not be developed, and outfitting camps are prohibited in Western yellow-billed cuckoo habitat.
5. Surface disturbing and disruptive activities potentially disruptive to Western yellow-billed cuckoos are prohibited within one-half mile of identified habitat from April 15 to August 15 for the protection of nesting Western yellow-billed cuckoos.

#### ***Species Listed on the BLM Wyoming State Director's Sensitive Species List***

1. Surface disturbing and disruptive activities that would potentially affect the habitat of Special Status Species will be intensively managed on a case-by-case basis (Appendices 1, 10, and 15).



Maintenance Change No. 2541  
**MAINTENANCE CHANGE SHEET**

**PLAN NAME:** Record of Decision and Approved Rawlins Resource Management Plan  
**AREA:** Rawlins Field Office

**LOCATION OF CHANGE**

Page No. 2-54	Paragraph No. 14	(Column n/a )	Line No. 1-2
Page No. 2-55	Paragraph No. 1	(Column n/a)	Line No. 1-3

**CHANGE**

Insert: This sentence at the end of line 2 on page 2-54, paragraph 14 and at the end of line 3 on page 2-55, paragraph 1:

**WYOMING POCKET GOPHER HABITAT PROTECTION MEASURES**

Where active pocket gopher mounds are identified, the project will be moved 75 meters from the identified pocket gopher mounds to reduce impacts, when possible.

In cases when the project proponent for a surface disturbing activity cannot avoid active pocket gopher mounds by 75 meters, a pre-construction classification survey (via live capture) must be completed within 75 meters of the proposed project to identify the associated pocket gopher to the species level. The surveys must be completed by a BLM, or BLM-approved, wildlife biologist. The current survey protocol is available from the BLM Rawlins Field Office. If results conclude that the associated species is a Northern pocket gopher, the proposed surface disturbance may proceed without any mitigation. If results conclude that the associated species is a Wyoming pocket gopher, or the classification survey fails to conclusively identify the associated pocket gopher, the following protection measures will apply:

- (1) The project will be moved 75 meters from the identified Wyoming pocket gopher habitat; **OR**
- (2) If applicable, a barrier will be placed around active Wyoming pocket gopher mounds in areas identified by the BLM wildlife biologist, between the Wyoming pocket gopher habitat and the project area, prior to any ground disturbing activities, to reduce disturbance to Wyoming pocket gophers during project construction. The barriers will remain in place through project construction. In addition, monitoring will be required by a BLM, or BLM-approved, wildlife biologist for two years post-construction to identify any Wyoming pocket gopher changes in habitat use and to determine if development impacted the local Wyoming pocket gopher population. A report will be submitted to the BLM within 180-days after the post-construction monitoring has been completed.

**REASON**

This change incorporates IM No. WY-2010-027 (April 5, 2010) Subject: Update



of the Bureau of Land Management, Wyoming Sensitive Species List-2010 (This IM supercedes IB WY-2003-001) and Attachment 2: BLM Wyoming Sensitive Species Policy and List. Using criteria set forth in Manual 6840, BLM Wyoming is designating the Wyoming pocket gopher (*Thomomys clusius*) as a Sensitive Species: Wyoming Pocket Gopher is appropriate for inclusion under criterion number 1b. Wyoming pocket gopher occurs in geographically restricted and specialized areas that are threatened by human activities, and this species is thereby designated as Sensitive in Wyoming.

**SIGNATURE AS APPROPRIATE**

Program Leader Mary J. Read Date 1/21/2015

Field Office Shirley A. Allen Date 21/Jan. 2015  
Planning and Environmental Coordinator

Field Manager G. Carpenter Date 1/21/15



Maintenance Change No. 2542  
**MAINTENANCE CHANGE SHEET**

**PLAN NAME:** Record of Decision and Approved Rawlins Resource Management Plan

**AREA:** Rawlins Field Office

**LOCATION OF CHANGE**

Page No. 2-54      Paragraph No. 14      (Column n/a )      Line No. 1-2

Page No. 2-55      Paragraph No. 1      (Column n/a)      Line No. 1-3

**CHANGE**

Insert: This sentence at the end of line 2 on page 2-54, paragraph 14 and at the end of line 3 on page 2-55, paragraph 1:

**PYGMY RABBIT HABITAT PROTECTION MEASURES**

To protect identified pygmy rabbit habitat, identified pygmy rabbit habitat patches will be avoided by 100 meters, when possible.

In the event identified pygmy rabbit habitat can't be avoided by 100 meters, a fence will be constructed in areas identified by the BLM wildlife biologist, between the pygmy rabbit habitat and the project area, prior to any ground disturbing activities, to reduce disturbance to pygmy rabbit habitat during project construction. The fence shall remain in place through project construction. In addition, a pre-construction presence/absence survey for pygmy rabbits will be conducted prior to any surface disturbing activities within ¼-mile of the edge of the proposed surface disturbance. The surveys must be completed by a BLM, or BLM-approved, wildlife biologist. The current survey protocol is available from the BLM Rawlins Field Office. Monitoring will be required by a BLM, or BLM-approved, wildlife biologist for two years post-construction to identify any pygmy rabbit changes in habitat use and to determine if development impacted the local pygmy rabbit population. A report will be submitted to the BLM within 180-days after post-construction monitoring has been completed.

**REASON**

This change incorporates IM No. WY-2010-027 (April 5, 2010) Subject: Update of the Bureau of Land Management, Wyoming Sensitive Species List-2010 (This IM supersedes IB WY-2003-001) and Attachment 2: BLM Wyoming Sensitive Species Policy and List. Using criteria set forth in Manual 6840, BLM Wyoming is designating the pygmy rabbit (*Brachylagus idahoensis*) as a Sensitive Species: Pygmy Rabbit is appropriate for inclusion under criterion number 1b. Specialized ecological refugia are threatened on BLM-administered lands and Pygmy Rabbit is thereby designated as Sensitive in Wyoming.

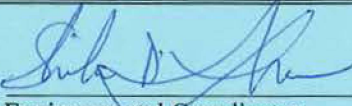
**SIGNATURE AS APPROPRIATE**

Program Leader

Mary J. Read

Date

1/21/2015

Field Office   
Planning and Environmental Coordinator

Date 21 Jan 2015


Field Manager 

Date 1/21/15



55-1

55-2

2. Surface disturbing and disruptive activities will be intensively managed to minimize impacts on identified crucial habitat for sensitive species for the purpose of protecting these species and their associated habitats (Appendices 1 and 15). 
3. Surface disturbing and disruptive activities in white-tailed and black-tailed prairie dog towns will be avoided.
4. Motorized vehicle use within white-tailed prairie dog towns is limited to either designated roads and vehicle routes or existing roads and vehicle routes, depending on the landownership pattern in the area of specific white-tailed prairie dog complexes.
5. Prairie dog poisoning is prohibited in white-tailed and black-tailed prairie dog towns/complexes, except for demonstrated reasons of human health and safety.
6. Anti-raptor perching devices will be considered, on a case-by-case basis, for any above-ground facilities within one-quarter mile of prairie dog towns.
7. Placement of power poles within prairie dog towns will be avoided; however, in the event that power poles are required to be placed within these towns, raptor anti-perch devices will be required.
8. Surface disturbing activities or occupancy are prohibited on and within one-quarter mile of the perimeter of an occupied greater sage-grouse or sharp-tailed grouse lek (Map 3-13).

Disruptive activities are prohibited between 6:00 p.m. and 9:00 a.m. from March 1 to May 20 on and within one-quarter mile of the perimeter of an occupied greater sage-grouse or sharp-tailed grouse lek.

Nesting/early brood-rearing habitat: Avoid surface disturbing and disruptive activities, geophysical surveys, and organized recreational activities (events) that require a special use permit in suitable greater sage-grouse and sharp-tailed grouse nesting and early brood rearing habitat within 2 miles of the perimeter of an occupied greater sage-grouse lek, and within 1 mile of the perimeter of a sharp-tailed grouse lek, or in identified greater sage-grouse and sharp-tailed grouse nesting and early brood rearing habitat, from March 1 to July 15.

9. Surface disturbing or disruptive activities within greater sage-grouse breeding or nesting habitat will require the use of BMPs designed to reduce both the direct loss of habitat and disturbance to the birds during the critical breeding and nesting seasons (Appendix 15).
10. High-profile structures (e.g., buildings, storage tanks, overhead power lines, wind turbines, towers, windmills) will be authorized on a case-by-case basis from one-quarter mile to 1 mile of an occupied greater sage-grouse and sharp-tailed grouse lek.
11. Surface disturbing and disruptive activities potentially disruptive to delineated greater sage-grouse and sharp-tailed grouse winter concentration areas are prohibited during the period of November 15 to March 14 for the protection of greater sage-grouse and sharp-tailed grouse winter concentration areas.
12. Any action that would result in stream channel instability, erosion, and sedimentation within known Western boreal toad habitat will be avoided.

## **2.4 PLAN IMPLEMENTATION**

The Approved RMP will be implemented as funding and workforce allow. Most of the land use plan decisions are effective upon approval of this document. However, some decisions will take a number of years to implement on the ground. Implementation monitoring will track which decisions have been implemented and when.

### **2.4.1 Public Involvement**

Some of the decisions contained in this document will require preparation of detailed, project-level NEPA analyses prior to implementation. Tribal consultation and public involvement opportunities, including further protest or appeal opportunities, may be provided. Other decisions have been addressed to a sufficient level of detail to be implemented over time without further NEPA analysis or public involvement opportunities.

### **2.4.2 Operation and Maintenance Actions**

Projects and maintenance of existing and newly constructed facilities will occur; however, the level of maintenance could vary based on annual funding. Normally, routine operation and maintenance actions are categorically excluded from NEPA analysis. Such activities could include, but are not limited to, routine maintenance of existing roads, ditches, culverts, water control structures, recreation facilities, reservoirs, wells, pipelines, waterholes, fences, cattleguards, seedings, fish and wildlife structures, and signs. These types of actions are part of implementation of the RMP and should not require further analysis to implement.

## **2.5 MONITORING AND EVALUATION PLAN AND ACTIVITY PLAN WORKING GROUPS**

### **2.5.1 Monitoring and Evaluation Plan**

Management actions identified for the Rawlins RMPPA are based on studies and the best scientific and commercial information available. However, conditions may change over time. Experience has shown that implemented management actions can be improved as new technology and new information become available. It is also possible that changes in land use will require a different management action to protect the resources. To address the changing conditions and provide management flexibility using BMPs, the RFO will monitor and evaluate the Approved RMP using a process that provides the optimum means of checking the effectiveness of management actions. This process will measure the effectiveness of existing actions by monitoring these actions and applying the results of new scientific research. To do this, the process will analyze the current resource conditions resulting from implemented actions and identify and recommend alternatives or modified actions, as necessary, to reach established objectives and goals. Because capability to conduct the process at the optimum level can vary from year to year, the actions to be monitored will be prioritized.

Appendix 17 presents a description of the monitoring and evaluation plan to be implemented.



## 2.5.2 Activity Plan Working Groups

RMP-level decisions establish goals, objectives, and management actions that provide the framework for management of natural resources and land use activities under BLM authority. Land use allocations, standard or typical management actions, mitigation measures, and BMPs are identified in land use plans. Activity planning or implementation-level actions include activity plans and analyses such as allotment or habitat management plans, oil and gas field development plans, recreation management plans, and coordinated activity plans. These activity-level plans address management of specific programs or resources and select or apply standard practices and BMPs from the land use plan. Activity plans analyze the need to modify existing decisions and practices in light of proposed or projected resource use or activity.

BLM supports the formation of Activity Plan Working Groups (APWG) when circumstances dictate. Potential cooperating agencies in these working groups could assist BLM in preparing environmental analyses for activity-level actions or modifications to current plans. BLM or potential cooperating agencies may identify the need for activity planning and the associated APWG formation. This approach is similar to the process used by BLM and its cooperating agencies to develop this RMP.

Chapter 4 of the Proposed RMP/Final EIS analyzes the impacts associated with each of the alternatives considered. This analysis includes an estimate of the environmental, social, and economic impacts that are anticipated as a result of the alternatives considered. It may also provide a suitable starting point for local governments to use in local planning efforts.

Further, BLM anticipates that site-specific implementation or project analysis will occur in accordance with governing law and regulations as the RMP allocation decisions are implemented. This analysis process will provide an opportunity for the BLM, State of Wyoming, and the affected counties and communities to collaborate in disclosing the socioeconomic impacts associated with the site-specific action being analyzed.

BLM RFO acknowledges that state and local governments may collect or develop more refined social and economic data and that local plans may be developed by the impacted counties, municipalities, or communities that attempt to address social and economic matters affecting them. This planning effort by local governments may address some or all of the social and governmental services within its purview and may contain the detailed budgetary requirements necessary to carry the plan forward.

After issuing the Approved RMP and ROD, an implementation strategy will be developed. The implementation strategy will include an annual coordination meeting between BLM and the cooperating agencies in the RMP revision. The annual coordination meeting will include an update on implementation of the plan, foreseeable activities for the upcoming year, including Section 390(b)(3) categorical exclusions, and opportunities for continued collaboration with the RMP cooperators. Further, BLM acknowledges the potential need for collaboratively addressing air monitoring and air modeling associated with implementation of energy development projects, quantification of existing ambient levels of air pollutants, and to estimate the potential effects to air quality and any necessary mitigation from projects implemented under this plan. Additional coordination meetings could be held as needed.

APWG activities are subject to existing regulatory and policy mandates. The BLM exercises final approval authority for any recommendations received through or as a result of APWG activities.

The objectives of APWGs are to—

- Minimize controversy by being proactive rather than reactive to public land use and resource conflicts

- Provide effective and cost-efficient recommendations to BLM for consideration
- Improve resource conditions by recommending practices and mitigation measures appropriate to special situations
- Streamline public land authorizations, increase implementation flexibility, and notify public land users of required practices.

The recommendation to establish an APWG commits BLM to meet with potential cooperating agencies prior to scoping for major activity plans or RMP amendments to establish the level and extent of the involvement of APWGs. Recommendations from the APWG concerning changes in management prescriptions needed to resolve resource conflicts will be considered for adoption. Any proposed changes will be subject to existing legal and policy mandates, including the Federal Advisory Committee Act (FACA); BLM has final approval authority for implementing any proposed changes. Examples of issues (Section 2.1.3) potentially requiring formation of an APWG include—

- OHV use escalating to a significant issue
- Activity level approaching that contained in the impact analyses made from reasonable foreseeable actions in an RMP or previous activity plan analysis
- Proposals for oil and gas surface location densities or acres disturbed above a certain amount per unit area
- Where landownership patterns create management difficulty (e.g., UPRR checkerboard land pattern)
- Wildland urban interfaces
- Identification of the need to prepare a recreation management activity plan
- Significant change to assumptions used for impact analysis in an RMP.

Examples of resource locations or management in which activity or use may trigger working group formation include the following:

- Where crucial or important wildlife habitats overlap with areas of high potential for surface disturbance (e.g., where WGFD has identified crucial deer winter range or other important habitats and high-intensity oil and gas development areas overlap)
- Where potential resource uses conflict with special management designations
- Where two or more resources of interest to cooperating agencies are in conflict (e.g., significant surface disturbance in identified habitat for T&E or state sensitive species).

When an APWG is convened, objectives include the following:

- Establishing working group membership and organization in accordance with existing policy and regulation
- Identifying issues, practices, and management actions the working group should address
- Establishing mechanisms and processes for communicating recommendations to BLM
- Identifying public notification needs associated with working group activities.

Other attributes and functions of APWGs include the following:

- APWGs will be specific to the activity plan.
- APWGs will provide suggestions and recommendations to BLM for evaluating mitigation, reclamation, and habitat management practices (e.g., compensatory mitigation and mitigation accounts, in addition to specific practices [Appendix 18]). Compensatory mitigation is entirely voluntary on the part of the project proponent.

## 2.6 SUPPLEMENTAL INFORMATION

Supplemental information supporting decisions in this Approved RMP is provided in the following sections and includes tables, maps, and appendices. The tables, maps, and appendices have retained the original numbering from the Proposed RMP/Final EIS to avoid confusion of new numbering between the Proposed RMP and the Approved RMP. The tables and appendices also have been modified, in some cases, to reflect actions and decisions included in the Approved RMP.

### 2.6.1 Tables

**Table 2-2. Continued and Proposed Withdrawals**

Continued or Proposed Withdrawals	Acres
<b>Total Existing Withdrawals<sup>a</sup></b>	<b>935,530</b>
<b>Proposed Withdrawals</b>	
Encampment River Campground	250
Corral Creek Recreation Site	180
Bennett Peak Recreation Site	230
Teton Reservoir Recreation Site	620
Prior Flats Campground	210
Dugway Recreation Site	200
Nine Mile Hill Recreation Site	440
Big Creek Recreation Site	220
Wheatland Reservoir #3 Recreation Site	1,520
East Allen Lake Recreation Site	160
Little Sage Reservoir Recreation Site	160
Little Robber Reservoir Recreation Site	880
Laramie River Access	1,680
Cave Creek Cave ACEC	240
Laramie Plains Lakes WHMA	1,600
High Savery Dam and Reservoir Site	530
Encampment River WSR	620
Gibben's beardtongue site	15
Other Special Status plants sites <sup>b</sup>	ND

Continued or Proposed Withdrawals	Acres
Area within ¼ mile of incorporated boundaries of all cities and towns	1,500
<b>Estimated Total Withdrawals<sup>c</sup></b>	<b>952,180</b>

<sup>a</sup> Existing withdrawals are also listed in Table 3-4.

<sup>b</sup> Additional closures and withdrawals would be pursued as conditions and plant status warrant.

<sup>c</sup> Because of land surface overlaps, acreage figures for individual areas do not add up to the total acreage value.

<sup>ND</sup> No data.

**Table 2-5. Linear Utility/Transportation Systems/Communication Sites, and Wind Energy<sup>a</sup>  
Exclusion and Avoidance Areas**

Area	Acres
<b>LINEAR UTILITY/TRANSPORTATION SYSTEMS/COMMUNICATION SITES</b>	
<b>Exclusion Areas</b>	
WSAs/VRM Class I <sup>b</sup>	68,160
<b>Total Exclusion Acres<sup>c</sup></b>	<b>68,160</b>
<b>Avoidance Areas</b>	
<b>Areas of Critical Environmental Concern</b>	
Blowout Penstemon ACEC	17,050
Cave Creek Cave ACEC	240
Sand Hills/JO Ranch ACEC	12,680
<b>Wild and Scenic Rivers</b>	
Encampment River WSR	620
<b>Special Recreation Management Areas</b>	
Continental Divide National Scenic Trail SRMA	600
North Platte River SRMA	5,060
OHV SRMA	ND
Shirley Mountain SRMA	37,820
<b>Wildlife Habitat Management Areas</b>	
Cow Butte/Wild Cow WHMA	49,570
Jep Canyon WHMA	13,810
Upper Muddy Creek Watershed/Grizzly WHMA	59,720
Pennock Mountain WHMA	7,770
Laramie Plains Lakes WHMA	1,600
Chain Lakes WHMA	30,560
<b>Other Management Areas</b>	
Como Bluffs NNL	1,690
High Savery Dam and Reservoir Site	530

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Area	Acres
Historic Trails Management Area	66,370
Shamrock Hills RCA	18,400
Stratton Sagebrush Steppe Research Area	<del>5,530</del> 4,613
<b>Other Avoidance Areas</b>	
Areas within ¼ mile of a cultural property or the visual horizon, whichever is closer, if the setting contributes to NRHP eligibility	350
Existing and new recreation sites	9,960
Gibben's beardtongue site	15
Other Special Status plant sites <sup>e</sup>	ND
VRM Class II areas	359,610
<b>Total Avoidance Acres<sup>c</sup></b>	<del>600,290</del> 599,373
<b>WIND ENERGY</b>	
<b>Exclusion Areas</b>	
WSAs/VRM Class I <sup>b</sup>	68,160
<b>Areas of Critical Environmental Concern<sup>d</sup></b>	
Blowout Penstemon ACEC	17,050
Cave Creek Cave ACEC	240
Sand Hills/JO Ranch ACEC	12,680
<b>Wild and Scenic Rivers<sup>d</sup></b>	
Encampment River WSR	620
<b>Other Exclusion Areas<sup>d</sup></b>	
Continental Divide National Scenic Trail	600
<b>Total Exclusion Acres<sup>c</sup></b>	<b>98,440</b>
<b>Avoidance Areas</b>	
<b>Special Recreation Management Areas</b>	
North Platte River SRMA	5,060
OHV SRMA	ND
Shirley Mountain SRMA	37,820
<b>Wildlife Habitat Management Areas</b>	
Cow Butte/Wild Cow WHMA	49,570
Jep Canyon WHMA	13,810
Upper Muddy Creek Watershed/Grizzly WHMA	59,720
Pennock Mountain WHMA	7,770
Laramie Plains Lakes WHMA	1,600
Chain Lakes WHMA	30,560
<b>Other Management Areas</b>	
Como Bluffs>NNL	1,690

Maintenance Change No. 61-1

## MAINTENANCE CHANGE SHEET

<b>PLAN NAME:</b> Record of Decision and Approved Rawlins Resource Management Plan <b>AREA:</b> Rawlins Field Office	
<b>LOCATION OF CHANGE</b>	
Page No. 2-61	Paragraph No. XX    Column n/a    Line No. XX-XX
<b>CHANGE</b> (Describe exactly what is to be deleted, added, rewritten, etc.) Delete: Original acreage of 5,530 acres under Table 2-5, Linear Utility/Transportation Systems/Communication Sites, Avoidance Areas, for Stratton Sagebrush Steppe Research Area. Reduces Total Avoidance Acres from 600,290 to 599,373. Insert: Insert 4,613 acres	
<b>REASON</b> (Describe exact rationale for above change to include reference material, i.e., EA, EIS, IM) The boundary was originally marked to follow section lines around the historic study areas and inadvertently included area outside of the watershed, study area, and allotment. The revised boundary and acreage reflects the Middlewood Hill allotment/pasture fence boundaries that encompass the historic study area.	
<b>SIGNATURE AS APPROPRIATE</b>	
Program Leader <u>/s/Michael D. R. Calton</u>	Date <u>October 23, 2019</u>
Field Office <u>/s/Susan Foley</u> Planning and Environmental Coordinator	Date <u>October 23, 2019</u>
Field Manager <u>/s/Dennis J. Carpenter</u>	Date <u>October 23, 2019</u>

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Area	Acres
High Savery Dam and Reservoir Site	530
Historic Trails Management Area	66,370
Shamrock Hills RCA	18,400
Stratton Sagebrush Steppe Research Area	<del>5,530</del> 4,613
<b>Other Avoidance Areas</b>	
Existing and new recreation sites	9,960
Gibben's beardtongue site	15
Other Special Status plant sites <sup>e</sup>	ND
VRM Class II areas	359,610
<b>Total Avoidance Acres<sup>c</sup></b>	<b><del>569,500</del> 568,583</b>

<sup>a</sup> The RMP reflects the adoption of the programmatic policies and best management practices identified in the "Final Programmatic Environmental Impact Statement on Wind Power Development on BLM-Administered Lands in the Western United States" (June 2005). Additional areas of land may be excluded from wind energy development on the basis of findings of resource impacts that cannot be mitigated and/or conflict with existing and planned multiple-use activities.

<sup>b</sup> WSAs are classified as VRM Class I, and thus are exclusion areas. This applies to utility/transportation systems, communication sites, and wind power developments. Programmatic policies presented in "Final Programmatic Environmental Impact Statement on Wind Power Development" (June 2005) identify WSAs as exclusion areas.

<sup>c</sup> Because of land surface overlaps, acreage figures for individual areas do not add up to the total acreage value.

<sup>d</sup> Per the programmatic policies presented in "Final Programmatic Environmental Impact Statement on Wind Power Development" (June 2005), ACECs, WSRs, and linear features within National Scenic Trails are exclusion areas for wind power development.

<sup>e</sup> Additional areas could be avoided if conditions and plant status warrant avoidance.

**Table 2-6. Areas of Fluid Mineral Lease Conditional Requirements by Hydrocarbon Potential (Approximate Federal Subsurface Acres)<sup>a</sup>**

Area	Hydrocarbon Potential (Federal Subsurface Acres)			Total
	High	Moderate	Low	
NO LEASE <sup>b</sup>				
Cow Butte/Wild Cow WHMA (not leased)	350	680	4,630	5,660
Upper Muddy Creek Waterhsed/Grizzly WHMA (not leased)	170	730	2,740	3,640
Encampment River WSR	0	0	610	610
Stratton Sagebrush Steppe Research Area (not leased)	0	0	0	0
WSAs	0	27,050	37,100	64,150
Total Affected Area (In Acres) <sup>c</sup>	510	28,550	44,170	73,230
NO SURFACE OCCUPANCY <sup>d,e</sup>				
Active raptor nest areas	2,870	7,890	8,470	19,230
Blowout penstemon habitat	0	0	150	150
Campgrounds and recreation sites	0	10	5,560	5,560
Cave Creek Cave ACEC	0	0	240	240

**Maintenance Change No. 62-1**

**MAINTENANCE CHANGE SHEET**

<b>PLAN NAME:</b> Record of Decision and Approved Rawlins Resource Management Plan	
<b>AREA:</b> Rawlins Field Office	
<b>LOCATION OF CHANGE</b>	
Page No. 2-62	Paragraph No. XX    Column n/a    Line No. XX-XX
<b>CHANGE</b> (Describe exactly what is to be deleted, added, rewritten, etc.) Delete: Original acreage of 5,530 acres under Table 2-5, Wind Energy, Avoidance Areas, for Stratton Sagebrush Steppe Research Area. Reduces Total Avoidance Acres from 569,500 to 568,583. Insert: Insert 4,613 acres	
<b>REASON</b> (Describe exact rationale for above change to include reference material, i.e., EA, EIS, IM) The boundary was originally marked to follow section lines around the historic study areas and inadvertently included area outside of the watershed, study area, and allotment. The revised boundary and acreage reflects the Middlewood Hill allotment/pasture fence boundaries that encompass the historic study area.	
<b>SIGNATURE AS APPROPRIATE</b>	
Program Leader <u>/s/Michael D. R. Calton</u>	Date <u>October 23, 2019</u>
Field Office <u>/s/Susan Foley</u>	Date <u>October 23, 2019</u>
Planning and Environmental Coordinator	
Field Manager <u>/s/Dennis J. Carpenter</u>	Date <u>October 23, 2019</u>



Area	Hydrocarbon Potential (Federal Subsurface Acres)			Total
	High	Moderate	Low	
Cemeteries	0	0	120	120
Continental Divide National Scenic Trail (not leased)	0	0	50	0
Greater sage-grouse and sharp-tailed grouse leks + ¼ mile	8,050	5,930	18,010	31,990
High Savery Dam and Reservoir area	0	0	1,050	1,050
Historic Trails + ¼ mile	11,620	17,290	24,460	52,370
Jep Canyon—Aspen	20	80	1,400	1,500
JO Ranch site	1	0	0	1
Laramie Plains Lakes	0	0	0	0
Non-trail cultural eligible properties + ¼-mile radius	0	130	110	240
Shirley Mountain SRMA	0	0	15,200	15,200
Towns (not leased)	240	0	40	280
<b>Total Affected Area (In Acres)<sup>c</sup></b>	<b>34,610</b>	<b>59,130</b>	<b>123,310</b>	<b>217,050</b>
<b>CONTROLLED SURFACE USE<sup>d,e</sup></b>				
Big game parturition areas	0	0	15,580	15,580
Blowout Penstemon ACEC	0	0	19,010	19,010
Chain Lakes WHMA (delineated wetlands)	0	800	720	1,520
Continental Divide National Scenic Trail (leased)	0	5	125	130
Cow Butte/Wild Cow WHMA (leased)	14,670	8,460	9,690	32,820
Jep Canyon WHMA	5,360	5,100	2,860	13,320
North Platte River SRMA	0	5,890	100	5,990
Preble's meadow jumping mouse potential habitat	0	0	1,340	1,340
VRM Class II areas	12,040	18,670	439,260	469,970
White-tailed prairie dog complexes	7,670	5,320	34,290	47,280
Wyoming toad habitat	0	0	0	0
<b>Total Affected Area (In Acres)<sup>c</sup></b>	<b>22,430</b>	<b>27,720</b>	<b>496,120</b>	<b>546,260</b>
<b>SEASONAL LIMITATIONS<sup>d,e</sup></b>				
Bald eagle communal roosting + 2 miles	0	3,390	14,940	18,330
Bald eagle nesting habitat + 1 mile	0	600	3,680	4,280
Bald eagle winter concentration areas + 1 mile	0	600	3,680	4,280
Big game crucial winter range	100,210	208,370	518,940	827,520
Greater sage-grouse nesting habitat + 2 miles	221,590	210,860	553,510	985,960
Mountain plover habitat	89,940	166,420	367,500	623,860
RCAs	6,530	13,590	15,940	36,060
Raptor nests (¾ mile to 1 mile)	163,640	353,380	405,600	922,620
Sharp-tailed grouse nesting habitat + 1 mile	5,270	3,650	3,980	12,900
Winter sage-grouse	90	270	0	360

Area	Hydrocarbon Potential (Federal Subsurface Acres)			Total
	High	Moderate	Low	
<b>Total Affected Area (In Acres)<sup>c</sup></b>	<b>341,220</b>	<b>613,360</b>	<b>1,226,700</b>	<b>2,181,280</b>

<sup>a</sup> Lease parcels are designed on aliquot parts. The actual acreage for the lease may vary.

<sup>b</sup> Although closed to leasing and related oil and gas activity, any other surface disturbing or disruptive activity would follow the surface disturbance prescriptions.

<sup>c</sup> Because of land surface and land restriction overlaps, acreage figures for individual areas may not add up to the total acreage value.

<sup>d</sup> All activities would be subject to intensive mitigation, including offsite placement of facilities, remote control monitoring, and restricted or prohibited surface use, including road construction, multiple wells from a single pad, central tank batteries/facilities, pipelines, and power lines concentrated in specific areas, etc., based on site-specific analysis.

<sup>e</sup> Refer to Appendix 1 (Wyoming Standard Mitigation Guidelines). These requirements apply to all surface disturbing and disruptive activities.

**Table 2-7. Summary of Special Designations and Management Areas**

Special Designation/Management Area	Acres
<b>Areas of Critical Environmental Concern</b>	
Blowout Penstemon ACEC	17,050
Cave Creek Cave ACEC	240
Sand Hills/JO Ranch ACEC	12,680
<b>Other Management Areas</b>	
Cow Butte/Wild Cow WHMA	49,570
Chain Lakes WHMA	30,560
Jep Canyon WHMA	13,810
Laramie Peak WHMA	18,940
Laramie Plains Lakes WHMA	1,600
Pennock Mountain WHMA	7,770
Red Rim-Daley WHMA	11,100
Upper Muddy Creek Watershed Grizzly WHMA	59,720
Wick-Beumee WHMA	280
High Savery Dam and Reservoir Site	530
Historic Trials Management Area	66,370
Shamrock Hills RCA	18,400
Stratton-Steppe Sagebrush Research Area	5,530 4,613
<b>Special Recreation Management Areas</b>	
Continental Divide National Scenic Trail SRMA	600
North Platte River SRMA	5,060
OHV SRMA	ND
Shirley Mountain SRMA	24,440
Adobe Town Dispersed Recreation Use Area	238,970
<b>National Natural Landmarks</b>	

Maintenance Change No. 64-1

## MAINTENANCE CHANGE SHEET


<b>PLAN NAME:</b> Record of Decision and Approved Rawlins Resource Management Plan <b>AREA:</b> Rawlins Field Office	
<b>LOCATION OF CHANGE</b>	
Page No. 2-64	Paragraph No. XX    Column n/a    Line No. XX-XX
<b>CHANGE</b> (Describe exactly what is to be deleted, added, rewritten, etc.) Delete: Original acreage of 5,530 acres under Table 2-7, Other Management Areas, for Stratton Sagebrush Steppe Research Area. Insert: Insert 4,613 acres	
<b>REASON</b> (Describe exact rationale for above change to include reference material, i.e., EA, EIS, IM) The boundary was originally marked to follow section lines around the historic study areas and inadvertently included area outside of the watershed, study area, and allotment. The revised boundary and acreage reflects the Middlewood Hill allotment/pasture fence boundaries that encompass the historic study area.	
<b>SIGNATURE AS APPROPRIATE</b>	
Program Leader <u>/s/Michael D. R. Calton</u>	Date <u>October 23, 2019</u>
Field Office <u>/s/Susan Foley</u> Planning and Environmental Coordinator	Date <u>October 23, 2019</u>
Field Manager <u>/s/Dennis J. Carpenter</u>	Date <u>October 23, 2019</u>

Special Designation/Management Area	Acres
Big Hollow NNL	640
Sand Creek NNL	160
Como Bluff NNL	1,690
<b>Wild and Scenic Rivers</b>	
Encampment River WSR	620 acres (2.51 miles)
<b>Wilderness Study Areas</b>	
Ferris Mountains WSA	21,880
Adobe Town WSA	32,650
Prospect Mountain WSA	1,140
Encampment River Canyon WSA	4,500
Bennett Mountains WSA	5,950

Table 2-8. Areas of Priority Access for Easement Acquisition

Areas of Importance <sup>a</sup>
<b>Areas of High Importance</b>
Arlington (forestry)
Atlantic Rim (recreation)
Big Creek (recreation)
Ferris Mountains (recreation)
Little Medicine (forestry)
Miller Hill (recreation)
Shirley Mountains (forestry and recreation)
Seminole-Pathfinder (recreation)
Continental Divide National Scenic Trail (recreation)
Rawlins Uplift (recreation)
<b>Areas of Moderate Importance</b>
North Laramie River (forestry)
Pine Mountain-Split Rock (forestry)
Toltec (forestry)
White Rock Canyon (forestry)
<b>Areas of Low Importance</b>
Seven Mile (forestry)
Sugarloaf (forestry)
Woodedge (forestry)
High Savery Dam and Reservoir Project (recreation)

<sup>a</sup> Indicates areas for opportunities to acquire or maintain legal access

**Table 2-9. Visual Resource Management Classifications and Acreage** 

VRM Classification	Acreage	Percentage of Total Land Area
I	68,160	1.92%
II	359,610	10.13%
III	2,676,950	75.38%
IV	446,760	12.58%
<b>Total</b>	<b>3,551,480</b>	<b>100%</b>

Source: BLM 2007.

All lands in the RMPPA were rated; however, only the BLM-administered lands are managed within the VRM system, and only BLM lands are included in the above-referenced acreages.

**Table 2-10. Seasonal Wildlife Stipulations**

Affected Areas	Restriction	Restricted Area
Big game crucial winter ranges	November 15–April 30	Antelope, elk, moose, bighorn sheep, and mule deer crucial winter ranges
Parturition areas	May 1–June 30	Identified parturition areas
Greater sage-grouse and Columbian sharp-tailed grouse leks, breeding and nesting habitat	(1) Prohibit surface disturbance/occupancy year round; March 1–May 20 avoid human activity 6:00 p.m.–9:00 a.m. (2) Avoid surface disturbing activities March 15–July 15	(1) Within ¼ mile of occupied greater sage-grouse and Columbian sharp-tailed grouse leks (2) Within 2-mile radius for greater sage-grouse and within 1-mile radius for Columbian sharp-tailed grouse identified nesting/early brood rearing habitat
Greater sage-grouse and Columbian sharp-tailed grouse leks, breeding and nesting habitat	(1) Prohibit surface disturbance/occupancy year round; March 1–May 20 avoid human activity 6:00 p.m.–9:00 a.m. (2) Avoid surface disturbance/occupancy March 1–July 15	(1) Within ¼ mile of perimeter of occupied greater sage-grouse and Columbian sharp-tailed grouse leks east of State Highway 789, south of Interstate 80, west of State Highway 71 and Carbon County Road 401, and north of State Highway 70 (2) Within 2-mile radius for greater sage-grouse and within 1-mile radius for Columbian sharp-tailed grouse lek or identified nesting/early brood-rearing habitat
Greater sage-grouse and Columbian sharp-tailed grouse winter concentration areas	November 15–March 14	Within identified winter habitat
Mountain plover	April 10–July 10	Potential and occupied habitat
Yellow-billed cuckoo	April 15–August 15	Within ½-mile radius
Barn owl nest	February 1–July 15	Within ¾-mile radius
Burrowing owl	April 15–September 15	Within ¾-mile radius
Cooper's hawk nest	April 1–August 31	Within ¾-mile radius
Ferruginous hawk nest	March 1–July 31	Within 1-mile radius

Amendment Change No. 66-1

## AMENDMENT CHANGE SHEET

**PLAN NAME:** Record of Decision and Approved Rawlins Resource Management Plan

**AREA:** Rawlins Field Office

### LOCATION OF CHANGE

Page No. 2-66--Table 2-9. Paragraph No. XX Column n/a Line No. XX-XX.

### CHANGE

(Describe exactly what is to be deleted, added, rewritten, etc.)

Delete:

Insert:

Class I	67,691 acres	1.92%
Class II	429,691 acres	12.16%
Class III	1,206,543 acres	34.15%
Class IV	1,829,059 acres	51.77%

### REASON

(Describe exact rationale for above change to include reference material, i.e., EA, EIS, IM)

Three amendments resulted in adjusting the acreages of the VRM Classes.

1. Chokecherry and Sierra Madre Wind Energy Project and Approved Visual Resource Management Plan Amendment on Public Lands Administered by the Bureau of Land Management Rawlins Field Office, Carbon County, Wyoming, approved October 9, 2012 (Map 2-50). Document located at <https://go.usa.gov/xmytd>
2. Energy Gateway South Transmission Project EIS ROD (Dec. 13, 2016) amended a short segment, 250 feet wide, of VRM III to VRM IV. Document located at <https://go.usa.gov/xmM9K>
3. Resource Management Plan Amendment and Environmental Assessment for Visual Resource Management and the Final RMP Amendment for the Blowout Penstemon Area of Critical Environmental Concern, approved October 3, 2018 (Map 2-50). Document located at <https://go.usa.gov/xEcpW>

Additionally, the incorrect shapefile was used in the original RMP (it did not incorporate the Ledder Land Exchange of 1997), resulting in a decrease of over 18,000 acres.

### SIGNATURE AS APPROPRIATE

Program Leader /s/Andrew Mowrey Date November 13, 2019

Field Office /s/Susan Foley Date November 13, 2019  
Planning and Environmental Coordinator

Field Manager /s/Nancy R. Baker for Date November 13, 2019

Affected Areas	Restriction	Restricted Area
Golden eagle nest	February 1–July 15	Within 1-mile radius
Goshawk nest	April 1–August 31	Within ¾-mile radius
Great horned owl nest	February 1–July 15	Within ¾-mile radius
Kestrel nest	April 1–July 31	Within ¾-mile radius
Long-eared owl nest	March 1–July 31	Within ¾-mile radius
Merlin nest	April 1–July 31	Within ¾-mile radius
Northern harrier nest	April 1–July 31	Within ¾-mile radius
Osprey nest	April 1–July 31	Within ¾-mile radius
Peregrine falcon nest	March 1–July 31	Within ¾-mile radius
Prairie falcon nest	April 1–July 31	Within ¾-mile radius
Red-tailed hawk nest	February 1–July 15	Within ¾-mile radius
Screech owl nest	March 1–July 31	Within ¾-mile radius
Sharp-shinned hawk nest	April 1–July 31	Within ¾-mile radius
Short-eared owl nest	March 1–July 31	Within ¾-mile radius
Swainson's hawk nest	April 1–July 31	Within ¾-mile radius
Other raptor nests	February 1–July 15	Within ¾-mile radius
Active raptor nests	Year round	Within 825 feet (ferruginous hawks, 1,200 feet)

**Table 2-11. Benefits of Recreation Experiences in SRMAs**

Benefits of Recreation Experiences in SRMAs
Learning and developing skills, abilities, and knowledge
Exploring on your own, having a sense of independence and adventure
Getting closer to family
Participating in group activities
Having access to natural landscapes
Relating to the land
Getting physical exercise
Escaping everyday responsibilities and urban stress
Developing a sense of stewardship for public lands
Achieving better mental and physical health
Developing and growing personally
Appreciating nature and aesthetics
Viewing wildlife in its natural habitat
Appreciating your natural heritage
Improving lifestyle
Appreciating the region in which you live

Benefits of Recreation Experiences in SRMAs
Maintaining local recreation-tourism niche
Increasing the desirability of the area as a place to live
Protecting plant, wildlife, and fisheries habitats
Reducing recreational impacts in the SRMA

## 2.6.2 Maps

The following maps (except those identified by letter) are included in the Proposed RMP/Final EIS and are pertinent to and therefore included in the ROD/Approved RMP. The following lettered maps were developed subsequent to the Proposed RMP/Final EIS and are also included in the ROD/Approved RMP.

Map 1-1	Overview
Map 1-2	Surface Administration
Map 1-3	Sub-Surface Administration
Map 1-4	Rawlins RMPPA
Map 2-1	Fire Management
Map 2-2	Designated Right-of-Way Corridors
Map 2-3	Domestic Sheep Avoidance Area
Map 2-6	Wilderness Study Areas
Map 2-6a	Adobe Town Wilderness Study Areas
Map 2-6b	Prospect Mountain Wilderness Study Area
Map 2-6c	Bennett Mountain Wilderness Study Area
Map 2-6d	Encampment River Canyon Wilderness Study Area
Map 2-6e	Ferris Mountains Wilderness Study Area
Map 2-9	Areas of Critical Environmental Concern
Map 2-9a	Blowout Penstemon Area of Critical Environmental Concern
Map 2-9b	Cave Creek Cave Area of Critical Environmental Concern
Map 2-9c	Sand Hills/JO Ranch Area of Critical Environmental Concern
Map 2-13	Other Management Areas
Map 2-13a	Chain Lakes Wildlife Habitat Management Area
Map 2-13b	Cow Butte/Wild Cow Wildlife Habitat Management Area
Map 2-13c	High Savery Dam and Reservoir Site
Map 2-13d	Jep Canyon Wildlife Habitat Management Area
Map 2-13e	Laramie Peak Wildlife Habitat Management Area
Map 2-13f	Laramie Plains Lakes Wildlife Habitat Management Area
Map 2-13g	Pennock Mountain Wildlife Habitat Management Area
Map 2-13h	Red Rim-Daley Wildlife Habitat Management Area
Map 2-13i	Shamrock Hills Raptor Concentration Area
Map 2-13j	Stratton Sagebrush Steppe Research Area
Map 2-13k	Upper Muddy Creek Watershed/Grizzly Wildlife Habitat Management Area
Map 2-13l	Wick-Beumee Wildlife Habitat Management Area
Map 2-17	Recreation Management Areas
Map 2-17a	Continental Divide National Scenic Trail Special Recreation Management Area
Map 2-17b	North Platte River Special Recreation Management Area
Map 2-17c	Shirley Mountain Special Recreation Management Area
Map 2-18	National Natural Landmarks
Map 2-19	Segments Eligible for Inclusion in the Wild and Scenic River System



Map 2-20	Watersheds with Management Actions
Map 2-26	Potential Disposals—Carbon County
Map 2-27	Potential Disposals—Sweetwater County
Map 2-28	Potential Disposals—Laramie County
Map 2-29	Potential Disposals—Albany County
Map 2-33a	Wind Energy Exclusion and Avoidance Areas
Map 2-33b	Linear Utility/Transportation Systems/Communication Site Exclusion and Avoidance Areas
Map 2-34	Bison Exclusion Areas
Map 2-38	Oil and Gas Classifications
Map 2-41	Existing and Proposed Withdrawals
Map 2-44	OHV Designations
Map 2-47	Historic Trails
Map 2-50	Visual Resource Management
Map 2-53	Pronghorn Habitat
Map 2-54	Mule Deer Habitat
Map 2-55	Bighorn Sheep Habitat and Lambing Areas
Map 2-56	Elk Habitat and Parturition Areas
Map 2-58	Adobe Town Dispersed Use Area Recreation Opportunity Spectrum
Map 2-59	Adobe Town Dispersed Use Area Recreation Opportunity Spectrum—Desired Future Condition
Map 3-1	Forest Management
Map 3-7	Recreation Sites and Areas
Map 3-10a	Unique Plant Communities
Map 3-13	Greater Sage-Grouse and Columbian Sharp-tailed Grouse Leaks
Map A2-1	Coal Development Potential
Map A2-2	Unsuitable Lands within Coal Development Potential
Map A2-3	Unsuitable Lands within Coal Development Potential
Map A2-4	Unsuitable Lands within Coal Development Potential

## 2.6.3 Appendices

The following appendices are included in the Proposed RMP/Final EIS and are pertinent to and therefore included in the ROD/Approved RMP.

Appendix 1	Wyoming Bureau of Land Management Mitigation Guidelines for Surface Disturbing and Disruptive Activities
Appendix 2	2003 Coal Screening Process Summary
Appendix 4	Air Quality Impact Technical Support Document
Appendix 5	Cultural Resources Management
Appendix 6	Land Exchange, Acquisition and Disposal Criteria
Appendix 7	Lands Considered for Disposal, Withdrawal and Acquisition
Appendix 8	Monitoring Methods to Assess Wyoming Standards and Guidelines for Healthy Rangelands
Appendix 9	Exception, Modification, and Waiver Criteria
Appendix 10	Special Status Species List
Appendix 11	Water Quality and Watershed Management Within the RMPPA
Appendix 12	Managing Wild Horse Populations in the Rawlins RMPPA
Appendix 13	Reducing Nonpoint Source Pollution with Best Management Practices
Appendix 14	Programmatic Biological Opinion for the Wyoming Bureau of Land Management's Rawlins Resource Management Plan

Appendix 15	Best Management Practices for Reducing Surface Disturbance and Disruptive Activities
Appendix 16	Mountain Plover Management Guidelines: Occupied Habitat Protection Measures
Appendix 17	Monitoring and Evaluation
Appendix 18	Compensation (Offsite) Mitigation
Appendix 19	Vegetation Treatments, Forest Practices, and Range Improvements
Appendix 20	Oil and Gas Operations
Appendix 21	Clarification of OHV Designations and Travel Management in the BLM Land Use Planning Process
Appendix 22	ACEC Designation Process
Appendix 23	Memorandum of Understanding between Bureau of Land Management and Wyoming Water Development Commission Concerning High Savery Dam and Reservoir Project
Appendix 24	Mitigation Guidelines for Special Status Plants
Appendix 25	Visual Resource Management
Appendix 26	Road Management and Closures in Sensitive Habitat Areas
Appendix 32	Hazard Management and Resource Restoration Program
Appendix 33	Reasonably Foreseeable Developments and Reasonably Foreseeable Actions Tables
Appendix 34	Designated Right-Of-Way Corridor Criteria
Appendix 36	Reclamation Plan
Appendix 37	Adobe Town Dispersed Recreation Use Area